General Guidance for American Citizens Living in Tunisia











Introduction

Welcome to Tunisia!

We're happy to have you here in our consular district, and look forward to serving you throughout your stay.

This guide is by no means comprehensive. As most American citizens in Tunisia live in Tunis and its outlying suburbs, the focus of this book is there. We encourage Americans in Tunisia to visit the State Department website (http://www.travel.state.gov) and other outside resources to get further details on living abroad as an American citizen. You may also register with the Embassy on the website and we encourage all Americans living abroad to do so! Please note that none of the businesses or service providers in this guide are being endorsed by the Embassy or the US Government. We provide their names as a resource and assume no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by these entities.

If the Consular Section can be of help to you during your time here in Tunisia please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

The Consular Section US Embassy Tunis



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American Citizen Services

Location: Consular Section, United States Embassy, Berges du Lac, Tunisia 1053

Website: http://tunisia.usembassy.gov

Telephone: (216) 71 107 000 (switchboard)

E-mail to: consulartunis@state.gov

For EMERGENCIES after hours, during weekends and holidays, please call the embassy switchboard at telephone number (216) 71 107 212.



SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

- •Issuance and renewal of U.S. passports;
- •U.S. Reports of Birth for children born in Tunisia to U.S. citizens, by appointment only; issuance of first passports
- •Notary services (a) for documents to be used in the U.S. or (b) for documents to be used by U.S. citizens resident in Tunisia;
- •Assistance to U.S. citizens who are in emergency situations, ill, incarcerated or who have relatives that die in Tunisia;
- •Lists of English-speaking translators, doctors, dentists & attorneys;
- •Information on Department of State Travel Warnings and country specific travel information;
- •Information on absentee voting and selective service registration:
- •Claims for veterans and social security benefits:
- •Transfer of Social Security and other U.S. Government benefits to beneficiaries residing abroad;
- •Information on procedures required to obtain Tunisian public documents.
- •Consular Officers can provide some information on other matters that affect Americans overseas or they may be able to refer Americans to the appropriate source of assistance.

This guide provides much of the information you may require during your stay in Tunisia. We welcome your input on how it may be improved. Please send input and suggestions to consulartunis@state.gov.

Registration with the Embassy

In order to register with the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia please refer to the following website page: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs

The cornerstone of our efforts to keep the American traveling public aware of problems threatening their safety and security is our Consular Information Program. Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You may register online at: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs.

What is Travel Registration?

Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Why should I register?

Millions of Americans travel abroad every year and encounter no difficulties. However, U.S. embassies and consulates assist nearly 200,000 Americans each year who are victims of crime, accident, or illness, or whose family and friends need to contact them in an emergency. When an emergency happens, or if natural disaster, terrorism, or civil unrest strikes during your foreign travel, the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate can be your source of assistance and information. By registering your trip, you help the embassy or consulate locates you when you might need them the most. Registration is voluntary and costs nothing, but it should be a big part of your travel planning and security.

How can the embassy or consulate assist me while I am abroad?

U.S. consular officers assist Americans who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties. Although consular officers cannot act as your legal counsel or representative, they can provide the names of local attorneys and doctors, provide loans to destitute Americans, and provide information about dangerous conditions affecting your overseas travel or residence. Consular officers also perform nonemergency services, helping Americans with absentee voting, selective service registration, receiving federal benefits, and filing U.S. tax forms. Consular officers can notarize documents, issue passports, and register American children born abroad. Most embassies and consulates have web sites with more information. Registration through this website is NOT considered proof of U.S. citizenship. If you apply for any American citizen services from the embassy or consulate while abroad, you will be asked by the consular staff to provide proof of U.S. citizenship, such as a U.S. passport or American birth certificate.

How will my information be used?

The Department of State and its overseas embassies and consulates request this information only to inform and assist Americans traveling or residing in foreign countries. All personal information you provide is secure and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

What if I am already living abroad?

Register as a Long-Term Traveler. You then have the opportunity to provide information about your foreign residence, and you can opt to receive information from the nearest embassy or consulate. If you create a password, you can update your personal information on this website at any time. If you have a residence or contact address in the U.S., use that address as your Personal Information address, and your foreign residence as your Long-Term Trip address. If you do not have a U.S. residence or contact address, use your foreign residence as both your Personal Information address and your Long-Term Trip address.

I just want information about the country I'm visiting.

You don't have to register to get travel information from the Department of State. A current listing of all Travel Warnings, Public Announcements, and Consular Information Sheets can be found at http://travel.state.gov. If you would like to sign up to get updated information sent to you by email for any country, use the "Travel Info" link at the top of this page: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/. For more details about Travel Registration, use the "Help" link at the top of this page. Find more information at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate website. If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about our travel registration website, please send an E-mail to consulartunis@state.gov. For specific information on Tunisia, please refer to the Consular Information Sheet at:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1045.html

Registration and Privacy

The Department of State is committed to ensuring that any personal information received by our overseas embassies and consulates pursuant to the registration process, whether in person or otherwise, is safeguarded against unauthorized disclosure. The data that you provide the Department of State is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act (5 USC 552a). This means that the Department of State will not disclose the information you provide us in your registration application to any third parties unless you have first given us written authorization to do so, or unless the disclosure is otherwise permitted by the Privacy Act.

Authority: 22 U.S.C 2715, and 22 U.S.C 4802 (b).

Purpose: To notify U.S. citizens in the event of a disaster, emergency or other crisis, and for evacuation coordination.

The information solicited on this form may be made available as a routine use to appropriate agencies whether federal, state, local, or foreign, to assist the Department in the evacuation or provision of emergency service to U.S. citizens, or for law enforcement and administration purposes or pursuant to court order. The information is also made available to private U.S. citizens, known as wardens, designated by U.S. embassies to assist in communicating with the American community in an emergency. For a complete statement of the routine uses to which this information may be put, see the Prefatory Statement of Routine Uses and the listing of routine uses set forth in the systems description for Overseas Citizens Services Records (State-05), found at http://foia.state.gov/issuances/priviss.asp. Lastly, while this internet site uses secure encryption to safeguard your privacy and therefore any unauthorized interception by third parties of the information you send via the internet is unlikely, please keep in mind that the Department of State is not responsible for any such interception.



Applying for Passports

All passport applicants must appear in person at US Embassy Tunis. Please provide the following documents:

For renewals of passports for applicants that meet the following requirements:

• If you are in possession of a full-validity (10-year) passport issued within the past 15 years and issued when you were at least 16 years old that is not mutilated in any way.

Please bring the following documents:

- Application form DS-82. Please type or print legibly in black ink when completing all sections of this application, and print out and submit only one-sided pages of the application. You may download this form from http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds82/ds82_843.html. You may also obtain this form from the Consular Section of the Embassy at the time of application.
- Your most recent passport
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1% inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).

For first time passports or for applicants that meet the following requirements:

- You are applying for a U.S. passport for the first time.
- Your previous passport was lost, stolen, or mutilated. (Please report this to us immediately.)
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago.
- Your previous passport was issued when you were under 16 or you hold a 5-year validity
- Passport. (Please refer to the following pages with section on Passports for Minors under the •Age of 16.)

Your name has changed since your passport was issued and you do not have a legal document formally changing your name, please bring the following documents:

- Application form DS-11. Please type or print legibly in black ink when completing all sections of this application, and print out and submit only one-sided pages of the application. You may download this form from http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds11/ds11_842.html . You may also obtain this form from the Consular Section of the Embassy at the time of application. Please do not sign this form until you are in the presence of a Consular Officer.
- Your most recent passport
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1% inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).
- First time passport applicants must bring proof of citizenship. This generally means a U.S. passport, an original
 birth certificate or a certified birth certificate issued by the city, county or state (see http://www.vitalchek.com) a
 ConsularReport of Birth Abroad, or a Naturalization Certificate) and proof of identity (generally a passport or
 current, valid driver's license. Note: Your Social Security card does not prove your citizenship, or your identity.

Fees (Effective January 17, 2011)

• Passports for minors under the age of 16

\$105

- If old passport is full validity, ten year passport issued within 15 years and not mutilated in any way \$110
- All other passport applicants

\$135



Passports for Minors under the Age of 16

There are special requirements for minors under age 16 in order to renew a passport. Please refer to http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/ for complete instructions since specific documentation is necessary.

- In order to renew a child's passport, both parents and the minor child must appear in person at the Consular Section of the Embassy. If one parent cannot appear, a notarized "Statement of Consent: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor Under Age 16" available at http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds3053/ds3053_846.html, authorizing passport issuance for the child must be presented with the non-appearing parents signed, photo identification.
- Two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1% inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).
- The child's original birth certificate, or a certified birth certificate issued by the city, county or state (see http://www.vitalchek.com) or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or Naturalization Certificate) and both parents' signed photo identification such as a passport.

Once we have received the complete passport application, it takes approximately two weeks for you to receive your new passport.

Passport Fees for Minors: Eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) or the Tunisian dinar equivalent in cash. Personal checks are not accepted.

For more information on renewing passports for minors, please refer to the following Department of State website pages: http://travel.state.gov/passport/ppi/news/news_857.html and http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/minors/minors_834.html



Lost, Stolen or Mutilated Passports

In order to obtain a replacement passport for imminent departure, all applicants (including children) must appear in person at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy with certain mandatory documents.

For minor children, please follow instructions on the previous page regarding two-parent consent and signatures.

The Office of American Services can replace lost, stolen or mutilated passports upon verification of your identity, and your citizenship, with an emergency limited-validity passport valid for immediate travel.

You may download the application forms DS-11 and DS-0064 from the following website pages http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DS-0064.pdf; or you may obtain the forms at the Consulate at the time of application. Please do not sign these forms until asked to do so in the presence of a Consul at the passport office of the Consular Section of the Embassy. A police report is also requested at the time of application.

Please submit two (2) identical, recent color photographs taken full face, with a white background, head size measuring 1 to 1% inch; entire photo size 5 cm by 5 cm (2 in x 2 in).

If you have an imminent departure, please bring proof of travel and a limited validity passport will be issued as soon as possible. It can usually be done within 24 hours.

The fee for a limited validity replacement passport (also called an emergency passport) is \$97 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar, to be paid in cash at the time of application. You will be given a letter along with your passport which gives instructions on how to turn in your limited validity passport for a full validity, ten year regular passport upon your return to the United States.

Please see the following website page for further information on lost and stolen passports: http://tunisia.usembassy.gov



Name Changes and Additional Visa Pages in Passports

If you wish your new name to appear on the last page of your current passport (there is no fee for this service):

- Please make sure that your passport is in good condition before having it amended.
- Submit the completed and signed application form DS-5504. You may dowload the form from: http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/ds5504/ds5504 2663.html
- Submit documentary evidence such a court order, marriage or divorce certificate, or other satisfactory evidence to support a change of name. Only originals or certified copies of these documents will be accepted along with your current passport at the time of application.

If you wish your new name to appear on the photo identification page of the passport:

- You will need to complete a new passport application. The passport renewal fee will be charged for this service.
- Submit documentary evidence such a court order, marriage or divorce certificate, or other satisfactory evidence to support a change of name. Only originals or certified copies of these documents will be accepted along with your current passport at the time of application.



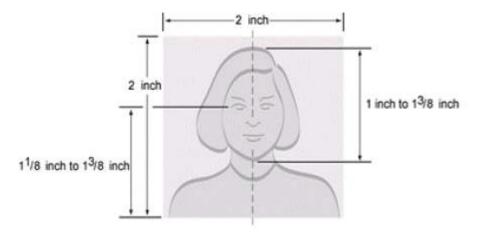
For additional visa pages:

- Please make sure that your passport is in good condition before having pages added to it.
- The application form, DS-4085, must be completed and signed. You may download the DS-4085 from http://pptform.state.gov.
- Please bring your passport and application to the Consular Section of the Embassy. The fee for this service is 82.00 \$.



Photo Requirements

For U.S. Passports



Please assure that the following conditions are met for your U.S. passport photos:

- Two (2) identical, unsigned, color or black and white photographs, taken within the past six months.
- Photograph **background** must be **white** or off-white.
- Square images, exactly 2 x 2 inches (5 x 5 centimeters).
- The head should be centered in the photo. The head of the person being photographed should not be tilted up, down or to the side. It should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.
- The customer's head, measured from the bottom of the chin to the top of the hair, should be between 1 inch and 1-3/8 inches (2.5 – 3.5 centimeters).
 - Please note the size of the head particularly: If it is incorrect we will not be able to accept the photograph.

Where to Get Photos

The American Embassy assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the persons or studios whose names appear in the list given below. The names are listed alphabetically and the order in which they appear has no other significance.

Choof Studio:

9 bis Avenue d'Afrique

Menzah 5

Tunis, 1004

Tel: 71-755-122

Kodak Express Studio:

17 Avenue Ali Belahouane

Entrée de la Marsa

Tel:71 982 180

Marsa Labo:

11 Avenue Taieb M'Hiri

2070 La Marsa

Tel: 71-728-548

Studio Salim:

Rue Abderrahmen Mami

Residence El Ahmadi, SPRIC

2070 La Marsa

Tel: 71-741-257

Questions about Citizenship and Passports

Q. I was born in the United States while my parents were there temporarily for studies. Do I have a claim to American citizenship? .

Yes, almost anybody born in the United States is an American citizen regardless of the nationality or status of the parents. One major exception includes children of foreign diplomats who have full diplomatic immunity. Anyone else can apply for an American passport by presenting an original birth certificate showing birth in the United States and adequate identity documents.

Q. I am an American citizen and I recently had a child born in Tunisia. Is she American?

Probably. Whether an American citizen can transmit citizenship to a child born overseas depends on whether both parents are American, whether the child was born in wedlock, and when the child was born. The most common case is a child born in wedlock to one American parent and one non-American parent. The American parent must have been physically present in the United States for five years prior to the birth of the child. In addition, two of those five years must be after the parent reached the age of fourteen. For children born before November 14, 1986, the parent must have spent ten years in the United States with five years after the age of fourteen. The five years is cumulative, so a few months here and a few years there can be used to add up to the five years. When both parents are American, they need only show that one of them has ever resided in the United States. An American mother of a child born out wedlock needs to show that she spent one continuous year in the United States prior to the birth of her child. An American father of a child born out of wedlock must have the five years and must have recognized the child and agreed to support the child financially.

Q. My daughter has lived all her life in Tunisia and cannot give American citizenship to her children. Is there any way they can become American through their grandparents?

Yes. When American citizens cannot transmit citizenship to their children born overseas because they do not have the required physical presence time in the United States, they have two options: They can apply for the expeditious naturalization of their children, if an American citizen grandparent has enough physical presence time in the United States. This procedure must be done through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service. The process takes longer (up to 3 years) and the child must go to the United States to be naturalized, but the end result is that the child receives a Certificate of U.S. Citizenship and is an American citizen. The process must be completed before the child is eighteen. The U.S. citizen parent may file for an immigrant visa for the child. Under the Child Citizenship Act, once the child enters the U.S. on an immigrant visa, the child automatically a U.S. citizen. The child must be under 18 and in the legal and physical custody of the U.S. citizen parent at the time of entry. Immigrant visas may be obtained through the Embassy in Tunis. The immigrant visa process usually takes no more than a few months.

Q. We are Americans living in Tunisia. We just adopted an Ethiopian girl and she is living with us here. How do we get her an American passport?

The same process mentioned above can be used for children adopted overseas by American citizens. While adoption by a U.S. citizen parent does not automatically confer citizenship, it does qualify a child for expeditious naturalization or citizenship upon entry to the U.S. with an immigrant visa.

Q. My son has both Tunisian and American citizenship. At what age must he choose which citizenship he wants to keep?

American citizenship is for life. The laws covering the retention of citizenship have been greatly liberalized. No child has to do anything at any age to retain, choose, affirm, or confirm American citizenship. In the 1980's, the Supreme Court ruled that citizenship is a Constitutional right that cannot be taken away from a citizen who does not intend to relinquish it. Therefore, such actions as naturalization or voting in a foreign election do not automatically jeopardize American citizenship

Q. If I acquire Tunisian citizenship, can I still be an American?

Yes. In the 1980's, the Supreme Court ruled that citizenship is a constitutional right that cannot be taken away from a citizen who does not intend to relinquish it. Therefore, such actions as naturalization in a foreign country, employment with a foreign government, voting in a foreign election, do not automatically jeopardize American citizenship.

- Q. If we don't plan to travel back to the United States any time soon, why should we renew our passports now?
- 1. The passport is proof of American citizenship. Every American abroad should have valid proof of her or his citizenship at all times.
- 2. Life is unpredictable. You will never know when you may need to travel suddenly to the United States.

The last thing you need to do in an emergency is worry about getting downtown to get your or your child's passport renewed. It is much better to do it when it is convenient for you.

- 3. A passport is required for countless Tunisian administrative purposes and you do not want to get caught with an expired passport when your carte de séjour comes up for renewal.
- Q. I travel frequently and my passport is always at some embassy to obtain a visa. Can I get a second passport?

Generally, citizens are allowed to carry only one valid passport at a time. In some cases, the issuance of a second passport is possible: frequent travel and delays due to visa applications; the presence of a stamp from one country that causes problems in another country. We will ask for justification from an employer or proof of compelling reasons for personal travel.

Q. I let my passport expire. What can I do now?

You should renew it as soon as possible. Please see the sections in this guide on How to Apply for a Passport Renewal. We suggest that you always check your passport's expiration date well before you plan to travel in order to prevent delaying your travel plans.



Consular Reports of Birth Abroad

A Consular Report of Birth Abroad may be issued for any U.S. citizen child under the age of 18 who was born abroad and who acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. To register an overseas birth and to obtain a first passport, please schedule an appointment at http://tunisia.usembassy.gov. In addition to the documentation listed below, the child must be present at the time of registration.

U.S. citizens with children who were born outside the United States must register them at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to document them as U.S. citizens. American citizens can register the birth of their children born abroad with the Office of American Services as well as obtain a first passport and social security number for newborn children. In the registration process, a Consul determines the eligibility of U.S. citizen parents to "transmit" citizenship to the child.

REGISTRATION OF U.S. CITIZENS BORN ABROAD

U.S. citizens with children who were born outside the United States must register them at the nearest U.S. embassy or Consulate in order to document them as U.S. citizens. American citizens can register the birth of their children born abroad with the Office of American Services as well as obtain a first passport and social security number for newborn children. In the registration process, a Consul determines the eligibility of U.S. citizen parents to "transmit" citizenship to the child.

Upon registration, the child will be issued a CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD OF A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (FORM FS-240). This document is a basic citizenship document. In the United States, it may be easier to present this document as a birth certificate in place of a foreign birth certificate. The Consular Report of Birth Abroad is usually ready in about twenty four hours. The child's passport application will be sent to the National Passport Center and the passport will be ready within two weeks.

U.S. citizen parents should register their children as soon as possible, but it is imperative that registrations be processed before the children reach eighteen years of age. A Consular Report of Birth Abroad cannot be prepared if the child is 18 years old or more at the time the birth is reported. Persons born abroad who are more than 18 years of age and who believe they have a claim to U.S. citizenship, but who have never been documented as a U.S. citizen, should apply to the nearest American Embassy or Consulate for information and assistance in investigating their claim to U.S. nationality. Only the child's U.S. parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad on a child's behalf. Both parents must sign the application for the child's first passport.



Consular Report of Birth Abroad Checklist

Please remember that the child must be present at the appointment.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST:

The American parent(s) should submit the following documents to the Consular Section, either in the original form or a certified copy:

- The child's birth certificate issued by the local authorities at the place of birth. For births in Tunisia, request the
 extrait de l'acte de naissance from the town hall.
- Evidence of the U.S. citizenship of the child's parent(s) (e.g., passport or naturalization certificate)
- The marriage certificate of the child's parents if they are married. If the marriage occurred in Tunisia you may use the Tunisian marriage certificate.
- If either of the child's parents has been married before, evidence of the termination of that marriage, such as a divorce decree or death certificate.
- A statement by the U.S. citizen parent(s) listing the precise periods of actual physical presence in the United States.
- Evidence of physical presence in the U.S. (School records, passport stamps, doctor or immunization records are acceptable; Social Security and tax records generally are not admissible.)
- Completed Consular Report of Birth Abroad application worksheet (DS-2029)
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad for your other children, if applicable.
- The fee for the report of birth is \$100 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar. Fees must be paid in cash. Personal checks are not accepted.
- If applying for a U.S. passport for the child, please remember that the fee for a minor under 16 years old is \$105 or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar. If you are applying for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad as well as a first passport, the total fees are \$205.00. For children 16 or 17 years old, the passport fee is \$135.00. (Or the equivalent in Tunisian dinar.)



Authentication and Notarial Services

Notarial and authentication services are available by appointment Monday through Friday, except on Tunisian and American holidays. To make an appointment, please refer to the Embassy's website: http://tunisia.usembassy.gov

Notarial and authentication services are available to all U.S. passport holders. They are also available to foreign nationals with documents destined for use in the United States. They are executed by Consular Officers and may include documents to be signed before them such as statements made under oath, affidavits and acknowledgments.

To notarize a document, you must come in person to the office with the following documents:

- A valid passport or identity issued by a Government agency; drivers' licenses are acceptable, student ID's are not.
- The document to be notarized
- The fee is \$50, or the Tunisian dinar equivalent per initial signature/seal; each additional signature/seal provided at the same time in connection with the same transaction will cost \$20 or the Tunisian dinar equivalent.
- If your document must also be witnessed, please bring your witnesses with you. Consular officers and staff may
 not be witnesses for notarization purposes.
- Payments must be made in cash in dollars or dinar. We do not accept personal checks.



Voting from Tunisia

We strongly encourage you to register to vote and/or request absentee ballots as early in the year as possible to ensure that you will receive all ballots for which you are eligible. Should questions or problems occur, you would still be able to address them in time to vote in the general elections.

The following is the basic absentee voting process:

- You complete an application form (see below) and send it to local election officials in the U.S.
- The local official approves your request, or contacts you for further information
- The local official sends you an absentee ballot
- You vote the ballot and send it back in time to meet your state's deadline. The official US Government website for
 overseas absentee voting assistance is the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov. It has a
 wealth of information about absentee voting, including the downloadable absentee ballot application, state-specific
 instructions for completing the form, links to state and local officials, and a downloadable emergency ballot.

Overseas citizens groups help people to vote. We encourage you to contact Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad or other American citizens groups or organizations for assistance in registering to vote and requesting absentee ballots. Links to these roups are at http://www.fvap.gov/links/ocitlinks.html.

To register to vote and to request an absentee ballot, download the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefpca.html. You can also obtain this form from overseas American citizens groups or from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate. Fill it out and send it in, following the guidelines for your state. A postage-paid envelope template, valid if you are using the U.S. postal system, is available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/returnenvelope.html

Each state has different voting procedures. Information about your state's procedures is available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/vagchapter3.html. Information about your state's deadlines to register and vote is available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html. A calendar of election dates is available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html.

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your State or Local Election Office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website has a listing of all the State Election Office's websites. Simply visit our website at www.fvap.gov and select the State Election Site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office. States sometimes make last-minute changes. There may be late changes to your state's voting calendar, procedures or deadlines. When these occur, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) will issue a News Release. News releases are available at http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/releases.html.



Federal Benefits Unit

If you are presently receiving monthly benefits from a federal agency (e.g., Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Personnel Management or Railroad Retirement Board), you should contact the consular section to advise us of your residence in Tunisia. At that time you should inquire about the procedures for having your payments sent to you in Tunisia.

Please Note: Department of Defense retirees must deal directly with their Defense Finance and Accounting Service Center office in the United States.

Social Security Numbers

Social Security numbers are issued only to United States citizens and legal permanent residents (greencard holders). Typical processing time for applications filed in the United States is approximately 5- 10 days.

To secure a Social Security number, an application Form SS-5 must be completed. A passport or green card and a certified copy of a birth record established before age 5 must be presented. Cards should be received from the Social Security Administration in Baltimore within three months of completing the application process. For first time applicants age 12 or over who were born in the United States, the Social Security Administration is required to verify the birth certificate presented in evidence with the Registrar of the State of birth. This delays issuance of cards for six months or more.

U.S. CITIZENS REGISTERING A CHILD as a citizen through the Consular Report of Birth Abroad may also file for a Social Security number for that child at the same time. Parents are required to provide their own Social Security numbers if they have one and identification such as their passport or green card. If a Social Security card is not received within four months, contact the Federal Benefits Unit.

NON-RESIDENT ALIENS requiring a number for purposes of filing a U.S. tax return must file a Form W-7 Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) with the Internal Revenue Service. Individual States may require a Social Security number for record keeping purposes. Aliens may not have a Social Security number issued for these purposes unless required by State or local law which conforms with Federal law.

Aliens not otherwise entitled to a number and planning on attending school in the United States may be asked for a Social Security number by the school. This is for record keeping purposes and is not authorized by Federal law. The school should be asked to assign its own internal number.

If a Social Security number is required to conduct business with a U.S. bank or financial institution and Federal law does not otherwise allow the issuance of a number, ask the Internal Revenue Service for a Form W-8, Certificate of Foreign Status.



US Taxes

The US Embassy in Tunis keeps a limited number of forms available for pick-up by U.S. citizens who are resident in Tunisia. You will find below some links that are useful for citizens and permanent residents abroad. There is no IRS representative in Tunis. If you need information beyond that provided through the IRS website at www.irs.gov, you can contact the IRS office in Paris at:

Tel: 01- 43-12-25-55 Fax: 01-43-12-23-03

Website: http://france.usembassy.gov/IRS/IRS.HTM

E-mail: <u>irs.paris@irs.gov</u>

or the Philadelphia Service Center at:

FAX: 215-516-2555

P.O. Box 920, Bensalem, PA 19020. Tel: 215-516-2000 (not toll-free),

Embassy Tunis tax information and links: http://tunisia.usembassy.gov/tax information.html



Consular Information sheet

August 26, 2010

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Tunisia is a presidential republic with a developing economy. Tourist facilities are widely available in large urban and major resort areas. Read the Department of State <u>Background Notes</u> on Tunisia for additional information.

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP) / **EMBASSY LOCATION:** If you are going to live in or visit Tunisia, please take the time to tell our Embassy about your trip. If you sign up, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. Here's the link to the <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u>.

Local embassy information is available below and at the Department of State's list of embassies and consulates.

The U.S. Embassy in Tunis

North East Zone Berges du Lac North of Tunis 2045 La Goulette

Telephone: (216) 71-107-000, Fax: (216) 71964-360

Email: consulartunis@state.gov

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A passport is required. For U.S. passport holders, a visa is not necessary for stays of up to four months; however, a residence permit is needed for longer stays. The residence permit can be obtained from the central police station of the district of residence. U.S. citizens born in the Middle East or with Arabic names have experienced delays in clearing immigration upon arrival. U.S. citizens of Tunisian origin are expected to enter and exit Tunisia on their Tunisian passports. If a Tunisian-American succeeds in entering using a U.S. passport, he or she will still have to present a Tunisian passport to exit the country.

Visit the Embassy of Tunisia website for the most current visa information.

The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors or foreign residents of Tunisia.

Tunisian-American children must always have both parents' permission to exit the country, even if one parent has sole custody. Information about <u>dual nationality</u> or the prevention of <u>international child abduction</u> can be found on our website. For further information about customs regulations, please read our <u>Customs Information</u> page.

THREATS TO SAFETY AND SECURITY: There have been no instances in which U.S. citizens or facilities in Tunisia have been subject to terrorist attacks. However, in January 2007, Tunisian security forces announced the disruption of a terrorist group they believe intended to attack targets including the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. On April 11, 2002, Al-Qaida terrorists used a truck bomb to attack a synagogue on the Tunisian island of Djerba and a number of Western tourists were killed. Tunisian nationals have been involved in international terrorism, and international terrorist organizations have on multiple occasions called for attacks in North Africa, including Tunisia. There have also been reported threats to tourist facilities. The December 2007 sentencing of 30 Tunisian individuals for terrorist-related activities in December 2006—January 2007 may also encourage anti-Western sentiment or reactions toward the Government of Tunisia.

Tunisia has open borders with Libya and Algeria. Please refer to the Country Specific Information and other international travel safety and security information for those countries. Al-Qaida in the Land of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of two Austrian tourists on the Tunisia-Algeria border in late February 2008. The two Austrians had been driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle in the southern desert and did not follow government-mandated travel precautions. There have been no further incidents, but reports of a ransom having been paid for the Austrians' release could lead to further instances of Western tourists or residents being targeted for ransom. AQIM is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States, and the presence of AQIM in North Africa presents potential dangers to travelers. During late 2002 and early 2003, a number of tourists, several of whom crossed into Algeria from Tunisia, were kidnapped in the Sahara desert areas of southeastern Algeria. Travelers should remain particularly alert in areas near the Algerian border. Please see the section below on Traffic Safety and Road Conditions for more information about traveling in the desert.

In mid-2008, there were reports of disturbances in communities in the south of Tunisia near the Algerian border. While these disturbances appear to be triggered by economic concerns, and not directed toward Western tourists, travelers in these areas are urged to remain alert to local security developments and to be vigilant regarding their personal security.

Small demonstrations occur occasionally on university campuses and typically protest fee increases, salary levels for professors, and administrative policies. Other politically motivated demonstrations are rarely allowed but do break out occasionally on or around university campuses. These activities are not considered a threat to Tunisia's stability and have not targeted U.S. interests. There were a number of peaceful demonstrations in June 2010 to protest Israeli actions off the coast of Gaza. In early 2009, the conflict in Gaza prompted a strong reaction leading to many demonstrations in Tunis and throughout the country. It is best to avoid all demonstrations, as even peaceful ones can quickly become unruly and a foreigner could become a target of harassment or worse.

Government security forces, including the police and National Guard, are visibly present throughout Tunisia. Travelers should heed directions given by uniformed security officials, and are encouraged to always carry a copy of their passport as proof of nationality and identity. Security personnel, including plainclothes officials, may at times place foreign visitors under surveillance. It is against Tunisian law to photograph government offices and other security facilities. Suspicious incidents or problems should be reported immediately to Tunisian authorities and to the U.S. Embassy.

Stay up to date by bookmarking our <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u>, which contains the current <u>Travel Warnings</u> and <u>Travel Alerts</u> as well as the <u>Worldwide Caution</u>.

You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free within the United States and Canada, or by calling a regular toll line, 1-202-501-4444, from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

There is nobody better at protecting you than yourself. Take some time before travel to improve your personal security—things are not the same everywhere as they are in the United States. Here are some useful tips for traveling safely abroad.

CRIME: Criminals have targeted tourists and business travelers for theft, pick pocketing, and scams. Care should be taken with wallets and other valuables kept in handbags or backpacks that can be easily opened from behind in crowded streets or marketplaces. Criminals may violently grab at items worn around the neck (purses, necklaces, backpacks) and then run away, sometimes causing injury to their victims. Criminals have been known to rob pedestrians by snatching purses and handbags from their victims while on a motorcycle.

Harassment of unaccompanied females occurs rarely in hotels, but it occurs more frequently elsewhere. Dressing in a conservative manner can diminish potential harassment, especially for young women. It is always wise to travel in groups of two or more people. Women are advised against walking alone in isolated areas. Travelers are advised to avoid buses and commuter rail when possible, and to never enter a taxi if another passenger is present.

Theft from vehicles also occurs. Items high in value such as luggage, cameras, laptop computers, or briefcases have been stolen from cars. Travelers are advised not to leave valuables in parked cars, and to keep doors locked, windows rolled up, and valuables out of sight. U.S. citizens resident in Tunisia are also advised to refrain from leaving items of value unattended in the yards of their homes, as there have been reports of theft of items such as tools and bicycles.

Don't buy counterfeit and pirated goods, even if they are widely available. Not only are the bootlegs illegal in the United States, you may be breaking local law too.

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME: If you or someone you know becomes the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate (see the <u>Department of State's list of embassies and consulates</u>). If your passport is stolen we can help you replace it. For violent crimes such as assault and rape, we can, for example, help you find appropriate medical care, contact family members or friends, and help you receive money from them if you need it. Although the investigation and prosecution of the crime are solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in Tunisia is 197, although the service will be in Arabic or French. Emergency services are widely available in the larger towns; however, they can be less reliable in rural areas.

Please see our <u>information on victims of crime</u>, including possible victim compensation programs in the United States.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While you are traveling in another country, you are subject to its laws even if you are a U.S. citizen. Foreign laws and legal systems can be vastly different from our own. In some places you may be taken in for questioning if you don't have your passport with you. In some places, it is illegal to take pictures of certain buildings. In some places driving under the influence could land you immediately in jail. These criminal penalties will vary from country to country. There are also some things that might be legal in the country you visit, but still illegal in the United States, and you can be prosecuted under U.S. law if you buy pirated goods or engage in child pornography. While you are overseas, U.S. laws don't apply. If you do something illegal in your host country, your U.S. passport won't help. It's very important to know what's legal and what's not where you are going.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

MONEY: Travelers' checks and credit cards are accepted at some establishments in Tunisia, mainly in urban or tourist areas. Cash machines (ATMs) are available in urban and tourist areas. The Tunisian dinar is not a fully convertible currency. While the export or import of Tunisian banknotes and coins is prohibited, the export of foreign currency declared when entering Tunisia is allowed. Tourists are expected to make foreign exchange transactions at authorized banks and to retain receipts. A tourist may reconvert to foreign currency 30 percent of the amount previously exchanged into dinars, up to a maximum of \$100. Declaring foreign currency when entering Tunisia and obtaining receipts for dinars purchased thereafter will facilitate the conversion of dinars to U.S. dollars when leaving the country. Please keep all receipts of monetary transactions for presentation when departing.

WORKWEEK: Normal working days are Monday to Friday, with government offices open on Saturday mornings. Many stores are closed on Sunday, except in resort areas where most remain open.

PROSELYTIZING: Islam is the state religion of Tunisia and the government does not interfere with the country's religious minorities' public worship. Many religious denominations hold regularly scheduled services. However, it is illegal to proselytize or engage in other activities that the Tunisian authorities could view as encouraging conversion to another faith. In the past, U.S. citizens who engaged in such activities were asked to leave the country.

MEDICAL FACILITIES AND HEALTH INFORMATION: Medical care in Tunisia is adequate, with a number of new, private "polyclinics" available that function as simple hospitals and can provide a variety of procedures. Specialized care or treatment may not be available. Facilities that can handle complex trauma cases are virtually non-existent. While most private clinics have a few physicians who are fluent in English, the medical establishment uses French and all of the ancillary staff in every clinic communicates in Arabic and/or French. Public hospitals are overcrowded, under-equipped, and understaffed. In general, nursing care does not conform to U.S. standards.

Immediate ambulance service may not be available outside urban areas. Even in urban areas, emergency response times can be much longer than in the United States. Doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for healthcare services, although some hospitals may accept credit cards. Over-the-counter medications are available; however, travelers should bring with them a full supply of medications that are needed on a regular basis. The U.S.

Embassy in Tunis maintains a list of doctors and medical practitioners (dentists, etc.) who can be contacted for assistance.

Good information on vaccinations and other health precautions can be found via the <u>CDC website</u>. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the <u>World Health Organization (WHO) website</u>. The WHO website also contains additional health information for travelers, including <u>detailed country-specific health information</u>.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: You can't assume your insurance will go with you when you travel. It's very important to find out BEFORE you leave. You need to ask your insurance company two questions:

- --Does my policy apply when I'm out of the U.S.?
- --Will it cover emergencies like a trip to a foreign hospital or an evacuation?

In many places, doctors and hospitals still expect payment in cash at the time of service. Your regular U.S. health insurance may not cover doctors' and hospital visits in other countries. If your policy doesn't go with you when you travel, it's a very good idea to take out another one for your trip. For more information, please see our <u>medical insurance overseas page</u>.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in a foreign country, U.S. citizens may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from those in the United States. The information below concerning Tunisia is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Driving in Tunisia can be dangerous. It is recommended that visitors avoid driving after dark outside Tunis or the major resort areas. Driving practices are poor. Drivers fail to obey the rules of the road even in the presence of the police. Traffic signs and signals are often ignored, and drivers sometimes drive vehicles on the wrong side of the road. Faster drivers tend to drive on the left while slower drivers stay to the right. Traffic lane markings are widely ignored. Bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles are operated without sufficient lights or reflectors, making them difficult to see darting in and out of traffic. Motorists should also be aware of animals on the roads, particularly in rural areas.

Pedestrians present an additional challenge as they continuously dodge traffic (even on controlled-access highways) and do not pay attention to vehicles. Pedestrians and cyclists should be aware that drivers rarely yield and will not always stop at either crosswalks or stoplights. Defensive driving is a must when driving in Tunisia. Drivers may be stopped for inspection by police officers within cities and on highways at any time, and drivers should comply.

Drivers should also be aware that if they are involved in a motor accident that results in death or serious injury of another person, the police may take them into protective custody until they are absolved of responsibility. This can mean spending a period varying from one day to two months in detention. As with any arrest or detention, U.S. citizens taken into custody should immediately request that the police inform the Embassy of their whereabouts.

Travel in the desert areas of southern Tunisia presents additional challenges. Many roads are not paved and even well-traveled routes are subject to blowing sands that can create hazards for vehicles. Persons driving off the major paved roads are encouraged to ensure that their vehicles are appropriate for off-road driving conditions, and are

equipped with appropriate spares and supplies, including water and food. Groups should generally travel in multiple vehicles, so if a vehicle becomes disabled or immobilized, the group can return in the operable vehicle(s). Desert regions are subject to extreme temperatures, from sub-freezing evenings in the winter to dangerously hot daytime temperatures in the summer. In addition, there are many areas in the southern desert regions with little or no cellular telephone service. The Tunisian National Guard encourages persons traveling into the desert to register their travel beforehand. For details on how and where to register, please visit the U.S. Embassy's desert travel page.

Emergency services are widely available in the larger towns. They can be less reliable in rural areas. Emergency service numbers are:

Police (Police secours): 197

Fire Department: 198 Ambulance (SAMU): 190

Towing (SOS Remorquage 24/24): 71 801 211, 71 840 840

Please refer to our <u>Road Safety page</u> for more information. Also, we suggest that you visit the website of Tunisia's <u>national tourist office</u> and national authority responsible for road safety.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: As there is no direct commercial air service to the United States by carriers registered in Tunisia, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has not assessed Tunisia's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) aviation safety standards. Further information may be found on the FAA's safety assessment page.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: Please see our Office of Children's Issues web pages on <u>intercountry adoption</u> and <u>international parental child abduction</u>.

Background Notes on Tunisia

PROFILE

Geography

Location: North Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Algeria and Libya.

Area: 163,610 sq. km. (63,378 sq. mi.), slightly smaller than Missouri. Cities: *Capital*.-Tunis; Greater Tunis Area, Sfax, Nabeul, Sousse.

Terrain: Arable land in north and along central coast; south is mostly semiarid or desert.

Climate: Hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters.

Land use: Arable land--17.05%; permanent crops--13.08%; other--69.87%.

People

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Tunisian(s).

Population (2010): 10,486,339.

Annual population growth rate (2008): 1.2%. Birth rate--17.7 births/1,000 population. Death rate--5.8 deaths/1,000

population.

Ethnic groups: Arab-Berber 98%, European 1%, other 1%.

Religions: Muslim 99%, Christian less than 1%, Jewish less than 1%.

Languages: Arabic (official), French.

Education: Years compulsory--9. Literacy (definition--age 15 and over can read and write, 2007 est.)--74.3%. Health (2010): Infant mortality rate--22.57 deaths/1,000 live births. Life expectancy--75.78 total, 73.98 years male, 77.7 years female.

Work force (2009): 3.689 million. Unemployment rate (2009): 13.3%.

Government (To update)

Economy

Real GDP (2009, base 1990) TND 25.813 billion (U.S. \$19.13 billion).

Real GDP growth rate (2009): 3.1%.

Per capita GDP, PPP (2009, IMF est.): \$8,254.

Natural resources: natural gas, crude oil, phosphates, salt, iron ore.

Agriculture: *Products*--olives, olive oil, grain, tomatoes, citrus fruit, sugar beets, dates, almonds; beef, dairy products. Industry: *Types*--petroleum, mining (particularly phosphate), textiles, footwear, food processing, electric and mechanical components.

Services: Tourism, commerce, transport, communications.

Sector information as percentage of GDP (2009 est.): Services 43% (of which 5.5% for tourism); industry 31.5%; agriculture and fishing 8.9%.

Trade (2009): *Exports*--\$14.42 billion: clothing, semi-finished goods and textiles, agricultural products, mechanical goods, phosphates and chemicals, hydrocarbons, electrical equipment. *By region*--Europe 76.13%, Africa 13.12%, Asia 4.99%, Americas 2.6%. *By country* (U.S. \$)--France \$4.27 billion; Italy \$3.03 billion; Germany \$1.26 billion; Spain \$486.24 million; Libya \$830.8 million; U.K. \$685.8 million; Belgium \$319.15 million; U.S. \$196.59 million. *Imports*--\$19.03 billion: textiles, machinery and equipment, hydrocarbons, chemicals, foodstuffs. *By region*--Europe 72.58%, Asia 12.64%, Africa 7.21%, Americas 7.08%. *By country* (U.S. \$)--France \$3.83 billion; Italy \$3.11 billion; Germany \$1.66 billion; Spain \$864.67 million; China \$954.04 million; Libya \$559.01 million; U.S. \$761.53 million.

PEOPLE AND HISTORY

Modern Tunisians are the descendents of indigenous Berbers and of people from numerous civilizations that have invaded, migrated to, and been assimilated into the population over the millennia. Recorded history in Tunisia begins with the arrival of Phoenicians, who founded Carthage and other North African settlements in the 8th century B.C. Carthage became a major sea power, clashing with Rome for control of the Mediterranean until it was defeated and captured by the Romans in 146 B.C. The Romans ruled and settled in North Africa until the 5th century, when the Roman Empire fell and Tunisia was invaded by European tribes, including the Vandals. The Muslim conquest in the 7th century transformed Tunisia and the make-up of its population, with subsequent waves of migration from around the Arab and Ottoman world, including significant numbers of Spanish Muslims and Jews at the end of the 15th century. Tunisia became a center of Arab culture and learning and was assimilated into the Turkish Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. It was a French protectorate from 1881 until independence in 1956, and retains close political, economic, and cultural ties with France.

Nearly all Tunisians (99% of the population) are Muslim. There has been a Jewish population on the southern island of Djerba for 2,000 years, and there remains a small Jewish population in Tunis and other cities, which is mainly descended from those who fled Spain in the late 15th century. A small Christian community is dispersed throughout the country, and includes foreign residents, as well as a few hundred native-born citizens who have converted to Christianity. Small nomadic indigenous minorities have been mostly assimilated into the larger population.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS (To update)

Principal Government Officials

ECONOMY

Tunisia's economy has emerged from rigid state control and is now partially liberalized. Beginning in the mid-1980s, Tunisia's prudent economic policies, coupled with World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) support, have resulted in stable growth with healthy exports, a strong tourism sector, and favorable climatic conditions for agricultural production.

Economically and commercially, Tunisia is very closely linked to Europe. Tunisia signed an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU), which went into effect on January 1, 2008. The agreement eliminates customs tariffs and other trade barriers on manufactured goods, and provides for the establishment of an EU-Tunisia free trade area in goods, but not in agriculture or services; trade negotiations in these areas are ongoing.

Manufacturing industries, producing largely for export, are a major source of foreign currency revenue. Industrial production represents about 31.5% of GDP. It primarily consists of petroleum, mining (particularly phosphates), textiles, footwear, food processing, and electrical and mechanical manufactures. Textiles are a major source of foreign currency revenue, with more than 90% of production being exported. The Government of Tunisia, working with the European Commission and other partners, has implemented several programs to upgrade the capacity of key industrial sectors to remain competitive while the country gradually opens to trade with Europe and other regions.

Tourism is a major source of foreign exchange, representing about 11.57% of hard currency receipts (\$2.572 billion), as well as an important sector for employment. In 2009, 6.9 million tourists visited Tunisia, hailing largely from Europe and North Africa. While the influx of tourists represents a boon to the economy, Tunisia's large diaspora (about 1 million) also makes a positive and significant contribution. In 2009, remittances from abroad reached 2.652 billion dinars (approximately \$1.965 billion), or roughly 4.51% of Tunisia's GDP and 7.25% of the country's foreign currency earnings (TND 11.687 billion, or U.S. \$9.583 billion).

The country is a net importer of hydrocarbon products. Domestic crude production is 91,380 barrels per day, but

refining capacity is only 34,000 barrels a day. Proven reserves are in the region of 400 million barrels. Tunisia has one oil refinery on the north coast in Bizerte and in May 2006 awarded a tender to Qatar Petroleum for a second at La Skhira, near Gabes. Natural gas production is currently about 3 million tons oil equivalent. Proven reserves are about 65.13 billion cubic feet, two-thirds of which are located offshore.

The United States and Tunisia signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in October 2002 and follow-up TIFA Council meetings were held in October 2003, June 2005, and March 2008. Although TIFAs could serve as precursor agreements leading to bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), little progress has been made toward generating the necessary reforms required to engender an FTA. In 2004, Tunisia signed the framework agreement for a multilateral trade agreement with Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, known as the Agadir Agreement. The Agadir Agreement creates a potential market of over 100 million people across North Africa and into the Middle East.

The government still retains control over certain "strategic" sectors of the economy (finance, hydrocarbons, aviation, electricity and gas distribution, and water resources) but the private sector is playing an increasingly important role. Tunisia is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and is publicly committed to a free trade regime and export-led growth. In August 2010, the Government of Tunisia passed a law opening the Tunisian economy to foreign franchises in the sectors of retail/distribution, tourism, automotives, and training. Tunisia must approve franchising in other sectors, such as food service and real estate, on a case-by-case basis.

The Government of Tunisia is beginning to take a more proactive stance on intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement and education. Tunisia's recent intellectual property rights law is designed to meet WTO TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property) minimum standards and there is ongoing collaboration between the United States and Tunisian governments to promote public awareness of these rights.

The Central Bank is moving from direct management of the financial sector toward a more traditional supervisory and regulatory role. Commercial banks are permitted to participate in the forward foreign exchange market. The dinar is convertible for current account transactions but some convertible dinar/foreign exchange account transactions still require Central Bank authorization. Total convertibility of the Tunisian dinar is probably still some years away, though the Government of Tunisia has publicly pledged full liberalization by 2014.

Tunisia has a relatively well-developed infrastructure that includes six commercial seaports and seven international airports. Eight Arab and foreign groups were shortlisted for the construction, financing, and exploitation of a deep water port project at Enfidha (approximately 100 miles south of Tunis).

Average annual income per capita in Tunisia is over \$3,851. On July 1, 2010, the minimum monthly legal wage for a 48-hour week was raised to TND 272.480 (\$179.56) and for 40 hours to TND 235.040 (\$154.89).

While Tunisia's growth rate has averaged 5% over the past decade, its development goals require an average 6%-7% growth rate. In 2009, real GDP growth was 3.1% and inflation was 3.7%, down from 5.1% the previous year. According to official figures, Tunisia has 13.3% unemployment, but it is generally believed to be much higher in some regions. Despite the present low rate of population growth, a demographic peak is now hitting higher education and the job market. Tunisia has invested heavily in education, and the number of students enrolled at university has soared from 41,000 in 1986 to over 357,472 in 2009. Providing jobs for these highly educated people represents a major challenge for the Government of Tunisia.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

President Ben Ali has maintained Tunisia's long-time policy of seeking good relations with the West, including the United States, while playing an active role in Arab and African regional bodies. President Bourguiba took a nonaligned stance but emphasized close relations with Europe and the United States.

Tunisia has long been a voice for moderation and realism in the Middle East. President Bourguiba was the first Arab leader to call for the recognition of Israel, in a speech in Jericho in 1965. Tunisia served as the headquarters of the Arab League from 1979 to 1990 and hosted the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) headquarters from 1982 to 1993. (The PLO Political Department remains in Tunis.) Tunisia consistently has played a moderating role in the

negotiations for a comprehensive Middle East peace. In 1993, Tunisia was the first Arab country to host an official Israeli delegation as part of the Middle East peace process. The Government of Tunisia operated an Interests Section in Israel from April 1996 until the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000. Israeli citizens may travel to Tunisia on their Israeli passports.

Wedged between Algeria and Libya, Tunisia has sought to maintain good relations with its neighbors despite occasionally strained relations. Tunisia and Algeria resolved a longstanding border dispute in 1993 and have cooperated in the construction of a natural gas pipeline through Tunisia that connects Algeria to Italy. In 2002, Tunisia signed an agreement with Algeria to demarcate the maritime frontier between the two countries.

Tunisia's relations with Libya have been erratic since Tunisia annulled a brief agreement to form a union in 1974. Diplomatic relations were broken in 1976, restored in 1977, and deteriorated again in 1980, when Libyan-trained rebels attempted to seize the town of Gafsa. In 1982, the International Court of Justice ruled in Libya's favor in the partition of the oil-rich continental shelf it shares with Tunisia. Libya's 1985 expulsion of Tunisian workers and military threats led Tunisia to sever relations. Relations were normalized again in 1987. While supporting the UN sanctions imposed following airline bombings, Tunisia has been careful to maintain positive relations with her neighbor. Tunisia supported the lifting of UN sanctions against Libya in 2003, and Libya is again becoming a major trading partner, with 2009 exports to Libya valued at \$830.8 million and imports at \$559 million.

Tunisia has supported the development of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), which includes Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, and Libya. Progress on Maghreb integration remains stymied, however, as a result of bilateral tensions between some member countries. Tunisia has played a positive role in trying to resolve these tensions.

U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONS

The United States has very good relations with Tunisia, which date back more than 200 years. The United States has maintained official representation in Tunis almost continuously since 1795, and the American Friendship Treaty with Tunisia was signed in 1799. The two governments are not linked by security treaties, but relations have been close since Tunisia's independence. U.S.-Tunisian relations suffered briefly after the 1985 Israeli raid on PLO headquarters in Tunis, after the 1988 Tunis assassination of PLO terrorist Abu Jihad, and in 1990 during the Gulf War. In each case, however, relations warmed again quickly, reflecting strong bilateral ties. The United States and Tunisia have an active schedule of joint military exercises. U.S. security assistance historically has played an important role in cementing relations. The U.S.-Tunisian Joint Military Commission meets annually to discuss military cooperation, Tunisia's defense modernization program, and other security matters.

The United States first provided economic and technical assistance to Tunisia under a bilateral agreement signed March 26, 1957. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) managed a successful program until its departure in 1994, when Tunisia's economic advances led to the country's "graduation" from USAID funding. Tunisia enthusiastically supported the U.S.-North African Economic Partnership (USNAEP), designed to promote U.S. investment in, and economic integration of, the Maghreb region. The program provided over \$4 million in assistance to Tunisia between 2001 and 2003. The **Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)** was launched in 2002 and incorporated the former USNAEP economic reform projects while adding bilateral and regional projects for education reform, civil society development, and women's empowerment. In 2004, the MEPI Regional Office opened in Embassy Tunis. The Regional Office is staffed by American diplomats and regional specialists. It is responsible for coordinating MEPI activities in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia in close coordination with the American Embassies in those countries. The United States also supports Tunisia's civil society and economic development through bilateral Economic Support Funds programs.

American private assistance has been provided liberally since independence by foundations, religious groups, universities, and philanthropic organizations. The U.S. Government has supported Tunisia's efforts to attract foreign investment. The United States and Tunisia concluded a bilateral investment treaty in 1990 and an agreement to avoid double taxation in 1989.

American firms seeking to invest in Tunisia and export to Tunisia can receive insurance and financing for their business through U.S. Government agencies, including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-

Import Bank. The best prospects for foreigners interested in the Tunisian market are in high technology, energy, agribusiness, food processing, medical care and equipment, and the environmental and tourism sectors.

Principal U.S. Officials
Ambassador--Gordon Gray
Deputy Chief of Mission--Natalie E. Brown
Political/Economic Counselor--lan McCary
Commercial Attache--Isabel Rioja-Scott

The **U.S. Embassy** in Tunisia is located in Zone Nord-Est Les Berges du Lac 1053 Tunis, Tunisia (tel: 216-71-107-000, fax: 216-71-963-263).

TRAVEL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION (to be updated)

Further Electronic Information

Department of State Web Site. Available on the Internet at http://www.state.gov, the Department of State web site provides timely, global access to official U.S. foreign policy information, including **Background Notes** and daily press briefings along with the directory of key officers of Foreign Service posts and more. The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) provides security information and regional news that impact U.S. companies working abroad through its website http://www.osac.gov

Export.gov provides a portal to all export-related assistance and market information offered by the federal government and provides trade leads, free export counseling, help with the export process, and more.

Marriage in Tunisia

Specially designated Notaries at the City Hall Registry Office "Bureau de l'Etat Civil a la Municipalite" perform marriages in Tunisia. Only marriages celebrated before such an official in compliance with Tunisian Law No. 57 August 1, 1957, as amended are legal. If one or both of the contracting parties are foreigners, Tunisian law requires that the marriage also fulfill the marriage requirements of the foreigner's country. Neither a fixed period of residence nor publication of bans is required. A religious ceremony may subsequently be performed at the option of the couple.

Marriage may occur between:

- Tunisian men and foreign women without any requirements.
- Foreign men and foreign women provided each party obtains from their respective embassies the documents required by the Tunisian authorities prior to marriage.
- Foreign non-Muslim men and Tunisian Muslim women provided the man converts. The "Mufti", the national religious authority, delivers the Certificate of Conversion that must be presented to City Hall before a marriage can take place. The conversion process can take three months or longer.

The prospective husband and wife are each required to submit the documents listed below to the City Hall Registry Office in order to obtain an appointment for the marriage. All documents must be translated into Arabic or French by a sworn translator and all, except the passport, are retained in Tunisian Civil files. Please contact the Embassy for an updated list of sworn translators. The original marriage certificate is in Arabic. Official translations into French may be obtained from the official registrar.

Required documents: All must be originals or certified copies. All documents not in English must be accompanied by certified translations into English.

- 1. Birth Certificate bearing the impression seal of the issuing authority.
- 2. Passport
- 3. Affidavit of Eligibility to marry Tunisia requires proof of legal capacity to enter into a marriage contract in the form of certification by competent authority that no impediment exists to the marriage. No such document exists in the United States. Therefore, the parties to a prospective marriage abroad will have to execute an affidavit stating that they are free to marry. This is called an affidavit of eligibility to marry and must be executed at the American Embassy or consulate in the country in which the marriage will occur. The fee for the American Consular Officer's certification of the affidavit is \$50.00. WARNING: Title 22, Section 1203 of the United States Code provides that any person who willfully and corruptly commits perjury in swearing an affidavit before an American Consular Officer may be charged, proceeded against, tried, convicted an dealt with in any district of the United States, in the same manner, in all respects, as if such offense had been committed in the United States. Prenuptial Marriage Certificate This is a medical certificate establishing eligibility to contract marriage. This certificate must have a maximum validity of two months at the time of marriage. Each party must be free of any contagious diseases (primarily tuberculosis and syphilis), alcoholism and mental illness. The City Hall in Tunis will supply a printed form for this certificate upon request. All doctors practicing in Tunisia are authorized to perform these medical examinations.

4. Fee

Information

- Full name
- Date and Place of Birth
- Profession
- Current address in Tunisia
- Full names of parents
- Verbal declaration that they are free to marry

- Name of two witnesses

As applicable, the following documents may be required:

- 1. Divorce Decree(s) Such decrees must be final and valid in the country of the interested party's nationality. For example a Spaniard who has been divorced by the authority of another country, such divorce not being recognized by Spain, cannot contract marriage in Tunisia because Tunisian law requires compliance with both, Tunisian laws and the national law of the foreigner.
- 2. Prior spouse's death certificate bearing the seal of the issuing authorities.
- 3. Written Consent of parent or guardian if either party is under 20 years of age (article 5,6 and 153 of the Tunisian Personal Code)
- 4. Certificate from the Mufti in Tunis that a non-Muslim man who intends to marry a Muslim woman has been accepted into the Muslim religion (Interpretation of the Koran Scriptures having legal effect 7shaoual 1383). A non-Muslim woman does not have to become Muslim in order to marry a Muslim man.



Replacing Lost or Stolen US Driver's Licenses

The Embassy is not authorized to replace expired, lost and stolen U.S. driver's licenses. Only the Department of Motor Vehicles in the driver's home state can perform that service.

f you had your driver's license stolen in Tunisia, report it immediately to the police station having jurisdiction over the area where the theft occurred. The commissariat will issue a Recepissé de Déclaration de Perte ou de Vol de Pieces d'Identité ("Acknowledgement of Declaration of Theft of Identity Documents".)

No report will be made for lost driver's licenses.

This recepissé will generally substitute for a driver's license for a few weeks, but replacements may only be obtained at the DMV in the state where the license was originally issued. If your state requires a sworn affidavit or a notarized application for a replacement license, the Embassy's Office of American Services can notarize the application. Notarial services are open (by appointment) Monday thru Friday except on American and French holidays. Appointments are made online. Please refer to the Embassy's website at:

http://tunisia.usembassy.gov

International Driver's License:

The American Automobile Association (AAA) issues International driver's licenses in the United States. You will have to request an application "APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT" or INTERAMERICAN DRIVING PERMIT" from the American Automobile Association, 1000 A A A Drive Heathrow FL 32746-5063.

or from your local AAA office (please check their website (http://www.aaa.com) for state-by-state recommendations.) Return the completed application to the appropriate state address, or to the address in Florida provided above, with a photocopy of your valid U.S. driver's license, two passport-size (2 x 2 inches or 5 x 5 cm.) photographs and a check (U.S. banks only) or International money order for \$10.00 payable To the AAA. The International driver's license issued by the AAA is valid for one year.

The American Automobile Touring Alliance offers permits through the National Automobile Club. Call (650) 294-7000 (M-F, 8:30-5:00 Pacific Time) or access their website at (http://www.nationalautoclub.com). This international permit is valid for only one year from the date of issue, and must be accompanied by a valid U.S. Driver's license.

The International Driving Permit is translated into the nine official languages of the United Nations, including French and English and serves as a translation to be used in conjunction with the visitor's valid driver's license. It can be useful in emergencies such as traffic violations or auto accidents, particularly When a foreign language is involved.



Medical Resources in Tunisia

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the medical professionals, medical facilities or air ambulance services whose names appear on the following lists. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the medical professional, medical facility or air ambulance service.

Emergency telephone numbers

Emergency phone number: 190

Ambulance (with doctor and nurse)

S.A.M.U:.Service d'Aide Medicale Urgente 71-341-807 or 71-335-500

10 Rue Abou kacem Chebbi, Montleury

1089, Tunis Chebbi, Tunis

Poison Control

CAMUR: Centre d'Assistance Médicale Urgente et Réanimation 71-335-500

Rue Abou Kacem Chebbi,

1089, Tunis Chebbi, Tunis.

Emergency Medical Facilities

Military Hospital 71-391-133

Place de Tunis

1008 Montfleury

La Soukra Clinic 71-758-888

Rue Cheikh Mohamed Ennaifer

2036 La Soukra **Emergency : 71-758-666**

E-mail: cntunis@hexabyte.tn

Polyclinic Amen La Marsa

71-749-000

15 avenue de La République

2070 La Marsa

E-mail:docteurguelmami@yahoo.fr

Policlinic Berges du Lac

71-960-000

Rue du Lac Constance

1053 Les Berges du Lac

E-mail: polyclinique.lac@gnet.net

Polyclinique El Manar

71-885-000

Rue Habib Chatti

2092 Manar II, Tunis

E-mail: clinique.elmanar@planet.tn

Private Ambulances

Apollo Ambulances

71-843-434 or 98-358-916

8 rue Apollo XI

1082 C. Mahrajène, Tunis

E-mail: apollo.ambulances@meds-cape.com

Allo Docteur-Allo Ambulance

71-780-000 or 71-781-000

15 rue Ahmed.Amine

71-780-884 or 71-841-979

1005 Omrane, Tunis

Ambulance Echifa

71-585-999 or 98-243-552

2 rue 61572

Immeuble Chams

1068 Cité Rommana, Tunis

E-mail: ambulanceechifa@yahoo.fr

Amen La Marsa Ambulance

71-749-000

15 Avenue de la République

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E-mail: docteurguelmami@yahoo.fr

Doctors

General Practitioners

Dr. Leila Ennabli Makhlouf

71-604-274 or 22-604-274

Residence Les Jasmins, Bloc G, 4th floor

Rue Habib Chatti (across from clinic El Manar)

2092 El Manar I, Tunis

E-mail: L.makhlouf@planet.tn

Dr. Mohamed Enys Chérif

71-980-600 or 98-318-142

2, rue Imam Chafai

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E-mail: mecherif@tunet.tn

Dr. Solange Laroussi

71-254-435 or 71-343-753

58 Avenue de Londres

1001 Tunis République, Tunis

E-mail: solange.laroussi@gnet.tn

Dr. Suzanne Schleith Amara

71-784-470 or 98-305-324

110 Avenue de la Liberté, 1002 Tunis

E-mail: Susanne.amara@planet.tn

Internal medicine

Dr. Mohamed Aissaoui

71-883-553

5 Avenue T. Ben Ammar

2092 Manar II, Tunis

E-mail: aissaouimohamed@planet.tn

Cardiologists

Dr. Abdessattar Ben Hamida

71-845-662

Boulevard du 7 Novembre, Clinique Taoufik

1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

Dr. Nabil Marsit 71-882-289

Rue Habib Chatti, Résidence les Jasmins

2092 Manar II, Tunis

Pediatricians

Dr. Dhiaeddine Bibi

Rue Cheikh Zaghouani,

Cité Jamil, Escalier B, 2nd Floor

2091 El Menzah VI, Tunis

Dr. Mariem Darghouth Hachaichi 71-746-660 or 71-980-929

19 Place 7 Novembre

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E-mail: mdarghmzal@yahoo.fr

Dr. Néjib Raboudi

71-715-208 or 98-312-948

71-755-318

Avenue de l'Aire Nouvelle

Cité Nasr I

2080 Ariana, Tunis

Dr. Slim Maherzi 71-747826

1 Rue Saâda

2078 Marsa Safsaf, Tunis

E-mail: smeherzi@yahoo.fr

Dr. Soufia Helioui 71-886-829

28 Rue Mosbah Jarbou

2092 El Manar II, Tunis

E-mail: sfhelioui@contactoffice.net

Dermatologists

Dr. Mamoud Chafai 71-848-211

Clinique Taoufik

Boulevard 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton

1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

E-mail: chaffai.ma@planet.tn

Dr. Nabil Hachich

Rue 7151 Résidence les Jasmins Bâtiment H, Rez de chaussé 2092 Manar II

Dr. Ridha Gharbi 71-801-010

Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr

1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis

E-mail: r.gharbi@topnet.tn

<u>Dr. Sarah Ben Meriem</u> 71-741-160 or 71-748-749

2 Rue Tahar Ben Achour

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E-mail: sarahbmeriem@yahoo.fr

OB/GYN

Dr. Amine Sami Ben Sassi

71-729-727

19 Avenue Habib Bourguiba

1^{er} étage

2070 La Marsa Ville

E-mail:sami.amine@planet.tn

Dr. Dorgham Ghazi Bibi

71-842-405 ext. 1031

Clinique Taoufik

Bd du 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton

1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

E-mail:polyclinique.taoufik@planet.tn

Dr. Khaled Terras

70-860-600

Maghreb Medical

Rue du Roi Abdelaziz Aal Saoud

2092 Manar III, Tunis

E.mail: Khaled.terras@rns.tn

Dr. Meriem Abassi

71-870-852

28 Rue M. Jarbou

2092 Manar II

Neurologists

Dr. Abdellaziz Annabi

71-829-272

Avenue H. Nouira Résidence le Palace

Nasr II 2037 La Marsa, Tunis

Dr. Karim Makhlouf

71-842-815 or 71-783-168

Residence Les Jasmins, Bloc G, 4th floor

Rue Habib Chatti (across from clinic El Manar)

2092 El Manar I, Tunis

Dr. Salah Oueslati

71-842-815 or 71-783-168

Voie X2, Cite Ibn Z Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr

1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis

E-mail: oueslatisalah@planet.tn

Ophthalmologist

Dr. Chedly Bouzouaya

71-841-087

83 Avenue Mohamed V

1002 Tunis-Belvédère, Tunis

E-mail: Chedly@bouzouaya.com

Dr. Mehdi Bouacha

71-841-267

Centre Médical Saint Augustin

15 Rue Abou Hanifa

1082 Cité El Mahrajane

Mutuelleville, Tunis

E-mail: mehdi.bouacha@laposte.net

Dr. Slim Kallala

71-749-809

5 Rue Naser Bey

2070 La Marsa

E-mail: slimkallala@planet.tn

Orthopedists

Dr. Faouzi Charfi

71-240-018 or 71-347-321

23 Avenue de Paris

1001 Tunis République, Tunis

E-mail: faouzi.charfi@gnet.tn

Dr. Hamadi Ben Hamida

71-873-108 or 98-308-070

Immeuble le Campus. #30 A, 5th floor

2092 Manar II, Tunis

E-mail: hamadibenhamida@yahoo.fr

Dr. Moncef Ben Abid

71-844-344

Clinique Taoufik, Cabinet # 118

Bd du 7 Novembre, Nord Hilton

1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

Physical Therapist

Dr. Syrine Maaref

71-744-285 or 98-525-116

3 Rue El Maari (Near Lycée Cailloux)

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

E.N.T

Dr. Ali Zaouche

71-870-265

28 rue Mosbah Jarbou

2092 El Manar 2, Tunis

Dr. Imen Zekri Landolsi

70-730-336 or 98-935-148

5 Avenue Taieb Mhiri

Immeuble Morsi, 4th floor

2080 Ariana, Tunis

E-mail: dr imen zekri@yahoo.fr

Dr. Mohamed Bechir Bey

71-742-678

5 Place 7 Novembre

2078 la Marsa

Dr. Ridha Ellouze 71-799-772

Voie X2, Centre Médical Ibn Zohr

1003 Cité Khadhra, Tunis

E-mail: dr.rellouz.@planet.tn

Surgeons

Dr. Ridha Mzabi 71-799-613

71-764-433 or 98-311-230

Residence Thalassa

Rue du Lac Neuchatel

1053 Les Berges du Lac, Tunis

E-mail: ridha.mzabi@wanadoo.tn

Dr. Tahar Khalfallah

Hopital Mongi Slim ou Clinique Soukra

E-mail: tahar.khalfallah@rns.tn

Urologists

<u>Dr. Mokhtar Hajri</u> 70-860-719 or 70-860-455

Maghreb Medical: 1st floor, Cabinet E1

6 Avenue Abdelziz Aal Saoud

2092 Manar II, Tunis

E-mail: hajri.ims@planet.tn

Psychiatrists

Dr. Wahid Koubâa

70-861-110

Maghreb Medical

4 rue Al Saaoud

2092 Manar III, Tunis

E-mail: drwahid.koubaa@gmail.com

Dr. Louiz, Houssem

71-767-717

Centre Medical El Farabi

Bloc B, 3eme Etage, Apt#18

Rue Mohamed Cheikh Zaghouani

2091 ElMenzah VI, Tunis

E-mail: h.louiz@planet.tn

Dr. Omrani, Adel

71-796-131

21 rue Kuwait

1002 Lafayette, Tunis

E-mail: omrani.adel@gnet.tn

Dr. Zribi, Sofiane

71-324-452 or 71-324-052

3 rue Jamel Abdennaceur

1000 Tunis

E-mail: Sofiane.zribi@gmail.com

Labs

Dr. Ali Enneifer

71-801-000 or 71-785-591

4 Avenue des Etats-Unis d'Amérique

1002 Tunis Belvédère, Tunis

E-mail: lam.ennaifer@gnet.tn

Dr. Dhoua Derouiche Kallel

71-963-778

Rue du Lac Leman

Imm croissant du lac 1er étage App. A1

1053 Les berges du Lac, Tunis

E-mail: lamderouiche@hexabyte.tn

Dr. Oualid Triki

71-789-165

Immeuble Nord Hilton-Bloc El-1st Floor

Rue Micipsa 1082 Tunis

E-Mail: <u>oualidtriki@lycos.com</u>

Dr. Senda Jribi Masmoudi

70-860-680

Centre Dorra App 2, Bloc B

2092 Manar III, Tunis

Dentists

Dr. Ahmed Ridha Yassine

71-716-339, 71-715-216

24 rue des Mimosas

2080 Nouvelle Ariana

E-mail: yassineridha@yahoo.fr

Dr. Fares Ghariani

71-980-274

13 Place du 20 Mars

2070-La Marsa Plage, Tunis

E-mail: aresiani@yahoo.fr

Dr. Hanem Ben Miled

71-741-000 or 71-744-800

19 Bis Avenue de La République

Centre Sabri de Médecine

2078 Marsa Safsaf, Tunis

E-mail: h.benmiled@planet.tn

Dr. Mohamed Ridha Ghariani

71-748-752

12 rue des Cypres

2070 La Marsa, Tunis

(Only mornings till noon)

Orthodontist

Dr. Alia Bouratbine

71-893-141 or 71-281-605

9 Rue Rhodes

Mutuelleville

1002 Tunis Belvédère

E-mail: sabou@planet.tn

INFORMATION on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); fax 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or via the CDC's internet site at http://www.cdc.gov/travel. For information about outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization's (WHO) website at http://www.who.int/en. Further health information for travelers is available at http://www.who.int/ith.

MEDICAL INSURANCE: The Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and whether it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. Please see our information on medical insurance overseas at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis pa tw/cis/cis 1470.html.

Transportation

Taxis

Taxis are plentiful on the street of Tunis. Fares are metered and start with a base fare of 300 millimes. Most drivers will speak French and will accept a maximum of 4 passengers. Not all taxis have air-conditioning and/or seat belts. When a taxi is requested by telephone, rather than hailed on the street, the base fare will be higher. The phone number for the most popular taxi service is listed below.

Allo Taxi 71 783.311

Buses

A commuter train connects the beach cities with downtown Tunis. Named TGM (Tunis-Goulette-Marsa) it stops in La Marsa, Sidi Bou Saïd, Carthage and a number of smaller towns before its arrival in Tunis. First and second class fares are available. Fares are based on the distance traveled, but the most expensive fare is approximately 1 TD. The Tunis station is at the east end of Avenue Habib Bourguiba. A separate train system offers service to other cities in Tunisia. The station is located at Place de Barcelone.

Tram

Tunis has several tram lines running across the city. Routes run from the downtown area, near Avenue Habib Bourguiba to the areas of le Bardo, Lafayette, Cite Jardins, El Menzah and Ariana. Fares vary with the distance traveled.



Learning the Languages

The Bourguiba School offers intensive courses in French and Arabic at reasonable rates.

- Address: IBLV 47, Av.de la Liberté.1002 Tunis.Tunisie

- Phone: (216/71)832.418-832.923

- Fax:(216/71)833.684 - E-Mail: <u>iblv@iblv.rnu.tn</u>

- Website: http://www.iblv.rnu.tn/english/index.html

The French Cultural Center provides classes in French.

Tunis

- Adresse : 87, avenue de la liberté - 1002 Tunis Belvédère

Phone: (216) 71.105.200
 Fax: (216) 71.105.203
 E-mail: <u>ifc@planet.tn</u>
 Website: <u>www.ifctunisie.org</u>

Sfax

- Address: 9, Avenue Habib Bourguiba - 3000 Sfax

Phone: (216) 74.221.533
 Fax: (216) 74.296.362
 E-mail: <u>ifcsfax.adm@tunet.tn</u>

Sousse

- Address : Villa Marini - 4, rue des Jasmins - 4002 Sousse

- Phone: (216) 73.227.935



Activities

Hash House Harriers: This group of people from all different nationalities get together on a weekly basis to run or walk through different places in and around Tunis. Run and walk marked trails average between 6 and 10 kms. This is a very family friendly group that also organized two beach camping trips per year, as well as additional weekend trips throughout the year. Contact Tim Daly at hashgrandmaster@planet.tn for run details.

International Women's Group of Tunisia: The Women's Club is currently very active. Contact iwgtunis@hotmail.co.uk to be put on their mailing list.

Tennis: There are a number of Tennis clubs in the Tunis area.

Tennis Club De Tunis, 20 Bis Rue Alain Savary. Tunis 1002 71-287-379 or 71-894-487. www.tct.org.tn Yearly dues (as of 6/07) TD500

Tennis Club De Carthage Av. de la Republique Carthage Hannibal 71-277-313 Yearly dues (as of 6/07) TD 500 per person, TD850 per couple Adult and children lessons available

Tennis Club La Marsa Route de Tunis 2070 La Marsa 22-915-273 Yearly dues TD260 per Adult, TD250 person child.

Horseback riding lessons:

Hippoclub, Gammarth: Riding lessons are available in English, French, Italian, Arabic and German. Occasional Sunday afternoon beach rides will be announced by CLO. Contact Fadhil 21-563-826 for more information. www.hippoclubdarnaouar.com

Bowling

Golden Bowling - 16 lanes Ave. Principale 2045 Les Berge du lac de Tunis 71-960-096

Golden Tulip – 8 lanes Ave. de la Promenade 2078 La Marsa 71-913-000

Golf

Carthage Golf Course Chotrana 2-2036 La Soukra 71-765-919 . Yearly dues TD1100 Adult and children lessons available

Music Schools

Conservatoire de Musique de Riadh Fehri Rue Manoubi Snoussi Sidi Bou Said (behind Tam Tam) 71-740-995

L'Ecole de la Musique

209 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, La Kram 71-720-953 / 22-888-895 / 22-544-194

World Music

7 Rue Essaadda, La Marsa 71-980-486 / 22-206-913

Dance Classes

Evi Dance Rue ibn Rochd Carthage Amilcar 22-938-907 Classes in Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop available for adults and children. Classes run from September – June.



Activities for Children

Belvedere Park, downtown near Place Pasteur, is the home of the city Zoo. Daily: winter 9-4pm, summer 9-7pm. This park also has very limited playground equipment and a few kiddie rides.

La Marsa Park, A large park with playgrounds, tennis courts, and a pet area. A great place for kids to ride\ their bikes or skateboard. Entrance Adult TD1, Child TD.500. Playground area also requires a TD1 admission per child

Dah Dah, Les Berges du Lac. This Tunisian amusement park also known as "Happy Land," is spread over 9 hectares and offers a large variety of rides, mostly geared towards younger children.

Planetarium and interactive science museum Boulevard 7 Novembre, Ariana. The planetarium offers several shows such as Discovering the Universe, Destination Planets, the Moon, and Comets. It offers the show in several languages.

Planet Sport, located between Carthage and Sidi Bou Saïd, offers aerobics for adults and children, Tae Kwon Do, and other activities for children.

Water Park, Zone Touristique, Gammarth, Route de Raoede (across from the Residence hotel, look for the large dome). Open 10am – 7pm daily. 10TD per Adult, 5TD per child.

Friguia Animal Park, located halfway between Sousse and Hammamet, has around 360 animals including giraffes, ostriches, elephants, tigers and leopards. Entrance is only 5TD (adult) and 3TD (child). Summer hours 9am - 7pm. Winter hours 9am - 4pm. Closed on Mondays.

International Mother, baby and toddler Group, this group meets every Wednesday morning from 10 12pm. A wonderful way for mothers (or fathers) of pre-school children to meet others from the international community. E-mail TunisCLO@state.gov



Schools in Tunis

This is by no means a comprehensive list. We suggest that you consult with other parents as you look for a school for your children.

ACST

American Cooperative School of Tunis ACST- Km 10- Route de la Marsa 2045 Cite Taieb Mehiri, L'Aouina 71-760-905

Elementary office x151 – Ahlem Bejaoui Middle/High office x150 – Jouda Daoud Director office x 103 – Karima Loucif

ACST is located on the La Marsa highway, midway between Tunis and La Marsa. The ten-acre campus includes the main building complex, outdoor facilities for basketball, softball and soccer, as well as a gymnasium for indoor activities and a well-equipped playground. In addition, the school has a library with more than 7,000 books. The American school offers classes from PK-12, with full day kindergarten. Parents are generally pleased with the school, although some will comment that the sports programs for the middle school children are limited. This is due in part to the small size of the school and limited resources. There is an excellent swimming program for elementary through high school but interschool soccer and basketball is limited to high school. The school is offering a limited special needs program, 2006-2007 was the first year in existence and it is continuing to develop. Bus transportation is provided. For further information please contact the school by telephone at 71 760.571 or 71 760.905, by email at acst@acst.intl.tn or visit their website at www.acst.net.

ECOLE FRANCAISE

A typical school day runs from 8-12 and 2-4pm. A high level of French is required. On-line registration is available. abi@francophonestunisie.com.tn

Ecole Paul Verlaine – Primary Rue Othman KAAK 2070 La Marsa 71-740-940 / 71-741-472 Verlaine.marsa@planet.tn Lycée Gustave Flaubert – Secondary 16 Rue Othman KAAK 2070 La Marsa 71-740-940 / 71-744-638 Flaubert@planet.tn

Ecole Marie Cuirie – Primary BP 125 – Cite EL Maharagene 71-840-471 ertmc.admin@gnet.tn Lycee Pierre Mendes – Secondary 1082 Tunis – Mutuelleville 71-783-335 ertpms.admin@gnt.tn

The International School of Carthage ISC

Les Jardins de Carthage 2046 Ain Zaghouan Tunis 71-740-700 / 71-749-800 info@iscarthage.com ISC began its first year of operation in September 2007. Located in Carthage, the 25,000 sq.m. campus includes an indoor gym, a mini soccer field, a library, and a cafeteria. Instruction is offered in French and Arabic and follows the French system. Plans for English instruction have been postponed. Bus transportation is provided

Pre-Schools

The schools listed here are conducted in French and/or English. Children from ages 21/2 to 5 years are admitted.

ACST - Instruction is in English. This school is for 4 year olds. They have a half-day program or a full-day program. Registration forms and additional information is available on their web site. http://www.acst.net/

The Pines - La Marsa. Instruction is in English. Monia Ben Checkh is the director and her email is moniabc@planet.tn , 216-71-745-713. School hours are Mon- Fri from 9-12. They do offer French classes in the afternoon. Tuition is approx \$1,400 a year. Children 3-4 can attend.

Generation 2000- La Marsa, Instruction is in French and Arabic. School hours are Mon-Fri from 8-4. Children age 2-4 can attend. Tuition is 855TD for 10 months with a 55TD registration fee. Contact Mrs. Marie Christine Righi at 71 748 045.

Kid's Club - La Marsa for kids between the ages of 3 months and 4 years old. It is run by an expatriate ADB spouse. For more info call 20 03 68 79 (English) or 99 66 66 40 (French). Email: kidsclubtunis@yahoo.com . Address: 25, rue Juba – Cite Nassim– La Marsa.



Sworn Translators List

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. All information below is provided directly by the translators.

Last Name	First	Mailing Address / Email	Phone	Languages	
Last Name	Name	Mailing Address / Email	Fax	Languages	
		98 rue de Yougoslavie		Arabic	
		2éme étage	71 347 803	English	
		1000 Tunis	98 333 196	French	
ABDALLAH	Hafaiedh	iso.anis@gnet.tn	Fax: 71 354 753	Spanish	
		18 bis, rue Ibn Khaldoun	71 354 267	Arabic	
		1000 Tunis	71 332 308	English	
AYADI-HAKIM	Latifa	ayadihakimlatifa@yahoo.fr	Fax: 71 333 136	French	
		15 rue de Grèce		Arabic	
		1000 Tunis	71 258 683	English	
BELDI	Mohsen	mohsssen@voila.fr	Fax: 71 349 120	French	
		251 Avenue Habib Bourguiba	73 555 059	Arabic	
		5099 Lamta, Monastir	97 368 973	English	
BEN SALHA	Ezzeddine	hannibaltraductions@yahoo.fr	Fax: 73 555 059	French	
			72 230 867	Arabic	
		80 rue Ali Belahouane	72 221 444	English	
		8000 Nabeul	23 248 400	French	
BEN SLIMANE	Mohamed	mbslimane@yahoo.fr	Fax: 72 221 444	German	
		12 Avenue & Novembre			
		1164 Hammam Chatt	71 431 260	Arabic	
		Ben Arous	98 308 438	English	
CHOUROU	Béchir	Bechir.chourou@planet.tn	Fax: 71 431 871	French	

		Les Olympiades,		
		Bloc 26, Apt 364	71 773 327	Arabic
		1002 Tunis	98 328 599	English
ELLOUZE	Ridha	Cit_olt@tunet.tn	Fax: 71 772 065	French
		Avenue Habib Thameur Immeuble El Manar, Escalier A, 2ème Etage 3000 Sfax	74 220 552 74 298 109	Arabic English
ENNOURI	Hamed	Cab.h.ennouri@tunet.tn	Fax: 74 225 693	French
		1 rue d'Égypte	71 834 411	
LASSOUED		Lafayette 1002 Tunis	21 110 800	Arabic
MRABET	Inès	ines.lassoued@voila.fr	Fax: 71 834 411	English
		25 rue Ibiza		
		Riadh El Andalous		
		2080 Ariana, Tunis		Arabic
MANSOURI	Mohamed	mansourimail@yahoo.fr	98 586 511	English
		45 Avenue Tahar Sfar	73 200 719	Arabic
		4000 Sousse	22 698 014	English
MUSTAPHA	Ahmed	amidato@yahoo.uk	Fax:73 200 719	French
				Arabic Italian
				English Dutch
			71 345 005	French Swedish
		8 Avenue de Carthage	98 328 136	German Flemish
SEDIRI	Anouar	1001 Tunis	Fax:71 345 005	

Attorney's List

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. All information below is provided directly by the translators.

Last Name	First Name	Types of Law Practiced	Languages Spoken	Mailing Address	Preferred Phone
AHMADI	Abdallah	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, transfer of assets, labor, international, maritime	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	115 Avenue de la Liberte, Tunis	71-283-844
ALAIMI	Tarek			5 rude de l'evacuation, Nouvelle Ariana 2080	21-713-657
AMMAR	Yadh	Foreign investment, labor legislation, commercial, real estate, arbitration	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English and Italian	9 Rue de Jerusalem, Tunis 1002	71-784-275
ANNABI	Samir	Foreign investment, commercial, international, arbitration	Excellent Arabic, French and English	11 Rue Azzouz Rebai, Impasse 7, El Manar II, Tunis	71-886-181
BAROUNI	Moncef	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, transfer of assets, labor, international, maritime	Excellent Arabic, French and English	Rue du Lac D'Annecy, Immeuble Astree, 2eme etage, Les Berges du Lac	71-862-102
BELLAGHA	Adly	Corporate, commercial, foreign accounts, real estate, international, expropriation, insurance, offshore investment	Excellent Arabic, French and English, good Italian	126 Rude de Yougoslavie, Tunis	71-327-122
BEN KHEDER	Mohamed Kamel	Commercial, criminal, drugs, labor, maritime, immigration Commercial, criminal, drugs, labor, maritime, immigration	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	3 Rue Ibn Charaf, Cite Jardins, Le Belvedere	71-784-218
BEN ROMDHANE	Amel	Public	Excellent Arabic and French, good English and	12 Rue de Kairouan, Tunis 1006	71-781-576

			Italian		
BOUDERBALA	Samia	Commercial, labor, criminal, custody, drugs and international	Excellent Arabic and French, good English, light Italian	30 Avenue Abdelaziz Thaalbi, El Menza 9A, Tunis	71-882-333
BOUKHRIS	Mohamed Raouf	Commercial, foreign investment, offshore investment, real estate	Excellent Arabic, French and English	12 Rue de Kairouan, Tunis 1006	71-780-876
CAID ESSEBSI	Slaheddine	Commercial, international, maritime, real estate, transfer of assets	Excellent Arabic and French, fairly good English	14 Avenue Alain Savary, Tunis 1002	71-785-611
DHAHBI TOUNSI	Emna	Criminal		15 Avenue Jean Jaures, Tunis	71-253-613
DHRIF	Charfeddine	Civil, maritime, commercial	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	15 Rue Ghandi, Tunis 1000	71-347-776
KAANICHE	Adel	Civil, divorce, custody, adoption, criminal, drugs	Excellent Arabic, French, English	Rue Andre Lambert, Immeuble Astree Les Berges du Lac 2045	71-711-848

KEDADI	Hedia	Commercial, international, real estate, banking, commercial notary	Excellent French and English, fair Arabic and Spanish, light Russian	18 Rue Taieb Mehiri, Carthage Dermech 2016	71-271-175
KHROUF	Fatma	Civil, labor, real estate, maritime, adoption	Excellent French, good English, fair Arabic	49 Rue Chedli Gtari, El Menzah 9, Tunis 1013	71-871-909
LAKEHAL- AYAT	Naziha	Civil, labor, real estate, criminal, international	Excellent Arabic and French	28 Boulevard Bab Benat, Tunis	71-561-866
LAOUANI	Samira			5 rue de Chypre, Mutuelleville, Tunis	71-841-364
MEDDEB	Ahmed	Civil, commercial, criminal, real estate, labor, international, investment, drugs, immigration	Excellent Arabic and French, good English and German	32 Rue Charles de Gaulle, Tunis 1000	71-321-627

MEZOUAR	Ibtissem			25 rue Louis Braille, Belvedere 1002	71-843-753
OUNAIES	Abdessattar	Maritime, insurance	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	6 Rue d'Argentine, Tunis 1002	71-792-229
SAIDI	Rym			4 rue du 13 Aout, Immeuble Slim Apt N 1, Manouba 2010	
SELLAMI	Moncef	Civil, commercial, real estate, transfer of assets, maritime	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	55 Rue Habib Maazoun, Sfax 3000	74-223-971
TEFIFEHA	Touhami	Civil, custody, adoption	Excellent Arabic and French, good English	24 Avenue de 3 Aout, Sousse 4000	73-227-193

TRABELSI	Raja	International, maritime	Excellent Arabic, French and Italian, good English and Spanish	8 Avenue Habib Bourguiba, Centre Phenicia, Bloc A, 2nd floor, La Marsa 2078	71-745-735
VANDAVEER	Vonda		Excellent English, some French		21-589-747

Options during a Pandemic

The U.S. Government and international health agencies continue to provide information to U.S. citizens living, working, or traveling overseas on how to prepare for a severe pandemic, should one strike.

In 2009, a strain of influenza called 2009-H1N1 spread rapidly around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared 2009-H1N1 to be a pandemic, based on its wide spread, and categorized it as moderate, since most individuals infected with this virus fully recover.

The WHO has now determined that we are in the post-pandemic period, but health professionals remain concerned that the spread of influenza viruses has the potential to significantly threaten human health. If a particularly severe form of influenza virus develops and begins to spread easily from person to person, it could spread globally and lead to many deaths. If this happens, a severe pandemic would be declared by international and national public health and disease prevention organizations, such as the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

You should be aware that you may not be able to travel internationally during a severe pandemic because travel may be restricted to reduce the spread of the virus. For example, governments may close borders suddenly and without advance warning; commercial air, land, and sea carriers could cancel some or all services; and some countries may even quarantine people who appear sick. These developments could delay your travel to the United States, another country, or another region. You may need to remain where you are until conditions improve, which could take several weeks or months.

Private U.S. Citizens Residing Abroad or Working Overseas Long-Term: If you are a private U.S. citizen, you will need to rely on local healthcare providers and locally-available medications. U.S. Government facilities overseas, such as Embassies, Consulates, and military facilities, lack the legal authority, capability, and resources to dispense vaccines, medications, or medical care to private U.S. citizens. Consider local conditions and evaluate your ability to maintain adequate supplies of food, water, and medication. Decide where you would be safest during a pandemic and plan accordingly. Ask your doctor and health insurance company in advance about how you could get appropriate medication for treatment if you become ill, keeping in mind it could take many months to develop and produce sufficient quantities of a vaccine during a pandemic.

Short-Term Visitors, Tourists, and Students Abroad: Consult with your doctor before you travel and ask about medications you should take with you. Research the availability and quality of medical facilities at your destination and consider purchasing medical evacuation insurance. Be aware that hotels may cease to provide housekeeping and meal services during a severe pandemic, and many may close or steeply raise prices. Consider changing your travel plans or returning to the United States once there is evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of a more severe form of influenza, since commercial air transportation may quickly become unavailable.

If You Cannot Return to the United States: In the event of a severe, global pandemic, you should be prepared to remain abroad longer than your planned trip. You should avoid non-essential travel beyond your residence and workplace. You should also limit activities that could expose you to others who may be ill. Based on varying conditions abroad, you should prepare contingency plans and emergency supplies (non-perishable food, potable water or water-purification supplies, medications, etc.) for the possibility of remaining in that country up to twelve weeks. Visit the U.S. Government's federal influenza website to see examples of comprehensive planning checklists for individuals, businesses, schools, and other groups.

What Can You Do to Stay Healthy? You should wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds to eradicate viruses and bacteria. When soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol content, following product instructions. Shield your coughs and sneezes with a disposable or washable item (tissue, handkerchief, etc.). Get vaccinated against seasonal flu. Ask your employer, organization, or school about pandemic contingency plans. Please review detailed community mitigation guidelines, as well as information on the use of masks and anti-viral medications in a pandemic, also available on the federal influenza website.

What About During a Pandemic? You should practice social distancing measures such as teleworking, limiting handshaking and face-to-face meetings, avoiding crowds, and maintaining a distance of six (6) feet or more from other people. If you are healthy, consult with your employers about whether you should go to the workplace during a pandemic, taking into account local conditions and the risk of infection. If you are sick or are staying with a sick person, you should consult with your healthcare provider to determine the appropriate course of action, which could include home treatment.

Keep Yourself Informed: If you are in a country in which a virus with a high mortality rate, such as H5N1, is circulating, consider the potential risks and plan accordingly. Keep current with the latest medical guidance and practical information for travelers by visiting the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <u>Travelers' Health website</u> and <u>the WHO's international travel website</u>. You may also visit the Department of State's <u>travel information website</u> for up-to-date assessments of conditions in specific countries, and to obtain additional information on pandemic influenza.

Apostilles for Documents Issued in the US

An apostille is a certificate issued by a designated authority in a country where a treaty called the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement for Legalization of Foreign Public Documents applies. If you have a document which you want legalized for use in another Hague Convention country, the convention certification called apostille must be affixed to the document by a competent authority. The apostille is a pre-printed form prescribed by the convention. The apostille must be affixed at the government agency in the country which issued the original document. The Embassy does not have the authority to affix an apostille to documents issued in the United States.

PROCEDURE:

Since the authorities designated by the U.S. to affix the apostille can only attest to the validity of certain seals, it may be necessary for you to obtain some intermediate seals on your document, depending on the origin of the document, before the apostille can be affixed. There is no single U.S. competent authority to issue the convention apostille. There are different authorities for documents originating in state and local jurisdictions, Federal courts and Federal government agencies. Contact the competent local authority who will affix the certification (apostille) on your document. Please see appendix B (page 95 and following) for a list of the competent authorities. If it is necessary for you to obtain some intermediate seals on your document before obtaining the convention apostille, consult the appropriate state or federal authority listed below.

Hague "Apostille" Authentication Certificate:

Article 7 of the Convention provides for the use of a standardized authentication certificate called an apostille. A sample apostille certificate is provided in appendix C on page 103. The apostille consists of the following: 1) name of country from which the document emanates; 2) name of person signing the document; 3) the capacity in which the person signing the document has acted; 4) in the case of unsigned documents, the name of the authority that has affixed the seal or stamp; 5) place of certification; 6) date of certification; 7) the authority issuing the certificate; 8) number of certificate; 9) seal or stamp of authority Issuing certificate; and 10) signature of authority issuing certificate.

For more information on the apostille please refer to:

http://travel.state.gov/law/info/judicial/judicial 2545.html

FEDERAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

http://travel.state.gov/family/family_issues/divorce/divorce_591.html

If the Origin of the Document and/or Seal is a Federal Executive or Administrative Agency, Contact:

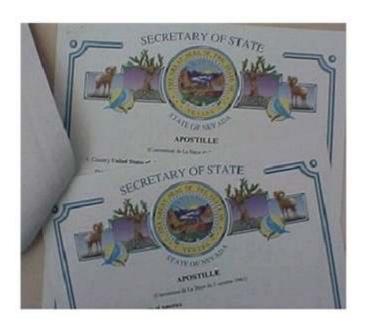
U.S. Department of State Authentications Office 518 23rd Street, N.W. SA-1 Washington, D.C. 20520 USA

U.S. Courts

Clerks and Deputy Clerks of the Federal Court System.

For the purposes of the Convention, clerks and deputy clerks of the U.S. Courts shall include the clerks And deputy clerks of the following: The Supreme Court of the United States, the Courts of Appeals for the First through the Eleventh Circuits and the District of Columbia Circuit, the United States District Courts, The United States Court of Claims, the United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals, the United States Court of International Trade, the United States District Court for the District of the Canal Zone, the District Court of Guam, the District Court of the Virgin Islands, and the District Court for the Northern\ Mariana Islands.

The Office of American Services continues to perform notarial and authentication services for those wishing to execute documents in the presence of a U.S. Consular Officer. This is not an apostille. The fee is \$30.00, or the Tunisian dinar equivalent per initial signature/seal; each additional signature/seal provided at the same time in connection with the same transaction will cost \$20 or the Tunisian dinar equivalent. For this service, you may refer to our website at http://tunisia.usembassy.gov



Lost and Stolen Credit Cards or Travelers' Checks

If your credit card or travelers checks are lost or stolen you should immediately notify the local police station, and then cancel your cards. Below are the US numbers of the major US credit card companies:

- American Express: 212-477-5700 - Visa Card 415-574-7111 - Master Card 314-275-6690 - Diners Club 303-792-0629



Filing an Immigration Petition for your Relative

Recent legislation has led to changes in the procedures American citizens resident abroad will follow if they wish to sponsor an immediate relative (spouse, parent or minor child) for an immigrant visa. Effective immediately, the immediate relative petition (I-130) must be filed with the USCIS office responsible for the petitioner's place of residence (that is, the place of residence of the American citizen who is filing the petition). Consular offices at U.S. embassies and consulates are no longer authorized to accept I-130s from anyone who has not been resident in Tunisia for at least six months, although they will continue to provide guidance to American citizen petitioners and their family members.

Responsibility for acceptance and approval of immigrant visa petitions rests solely with USCIS. American citizens should submit their I-130 at the CIS office responsible for their place of residence. This procedural change may result in a processing delay for some applicants. The Department of State recognizes and sincerely regrets the inconvenience this may cause.

The site www.uscis.gov provides a list of USCIS offices where petitions may be filed. (Or, from inside the United States you may call the USCIS Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.)

If you have been resident in Tunisia for at least six months:

If a petition is submitted to the Embassy, a consular officer will have the authority to approve it. If the consular officer decides that the case is not clearly approvable, the Embassy must forward the petition to USCIS Rome for further processing. This USCIS process may take six months or longer. Any decision to forward a petition to Rome is final.

To file a petition for your spouse, child, or parents you must be prepared to document your relationship to the beneficiary, your U.S. citizenship and your residency in Tunisia or Libya. Though the consular section has attempted to include all basic requirements in these instructions, cases may require additional documentation. If you have any questions about documentary requirements, please contact the consular section directly.

If you are an American citizen filing a petition for your family member, you will need:

- A completed Form I-130 Petition for Alien Relative
- A completed Form G-325 Biographic Information for you
- A completed Form G-325 Biographic Information for your relative
- Proof of your U.S. citizenship (a passport valid for at least five years at time of issuance, a naturalization certificate, or birth certificate)
- Your relative's proof of citizenship and identity
- Your family member's birth certificate
- One (50mm x 50mm) photograph of you and one of your relative
- The petition-filing fee of \$190, payable in cash. (USD or TND equivalent.).

If you are filing a petition for a spouse:

- Embassy cannot accept any petition in which one or both spouses are under the age of eighteen
- You may need your marriage decree issued by the Tunisian or Libyan government (religious documents are insufficient evidence of relationship)
- You may need proof of termination of any prior marriages.

If you are filing a petition for a parent:

- If you have been legally adopted, you may not petition for your birth parent
- If your name or your parent's name is different from the names on your birth certificate you must provide evidence of the legal name change
- You may need a copy of your parents' civil marriage certificate and a copy of any divorce decrees, death certificates, or annulment decrees that would show that any previous marriage entered into by your mother or father was ended legally.

If you are filing a petition for a child:

- may need an original marriage contract between you and the child's other parent
- If the child is included in a parent's passport, the child's photograph must be attached and the child's name must appear in the passport in Roman letters

Your family member must come with you to fill out additional forms at the time you file the petition.

All documents must be originals or certified copies.

All documents must be officially translated into English.



Adopting in Tunisia

Disclaimer: The following is intended as a very general guide to assist U.S. citizens who plan to adopt a child from a foreign country and apply for an immigrant visa for the child to come to the United States. Two sets of laws are particularly relevant:

1) the laws of the child's country of birth govern all activity in that country including the adoptability of individual children as well as the adoption of children in country in general; and 2) U.S. Federal immigration law governs the immigration of the child to the United States.

The information in this flyer relating to the legal requirements of specific foreign countries is based on public sources and our current understanding. It does not necessarily reflect the actual state of the laws of a child's country of birth and is provided for general information only. Moreover, U.S. immigration law, including regulations and interpretation, changes from time to time. This flyer reflects our current understanding of the law as of this date and is not legally authoritative. Questions involving foreign and U.S. immigration laws and legal interpretation should be addressed respectively to qualified foreign or U.S. legal counsel.

PLEASE NOTE: The U.S. Embassy in Tunis has been informed that Law No. 58-27, Articles 8 to 16 covers Tunisian adoptions. The law contains no nationality or religious requirements but Tunisian judges have generally held that prospective adoptive parents must be Muslim and of Tunisian descent. Usually, they will only grant adoptions to Muslims living in Tunisia or an Islamic Arab country that have some family ties to Tunisia.

A foreign country's determination that the child is an orphan does not guarantee that the child will be considered an orphan under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. For more specific information on adoption in Tunisia, please contact an attorney familiar with Tunisian laws or the Embassy of Tunisia in Washington, D.C. http://tunisiaembassy.org/.

ADOPTION AUTHORITY IN TUNISIA:

Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance 2010 Manoubia Tunis, Tunisie

Tel: (216) 71-606-938/ 71-606-890

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

- The adopting parent must be at least 20 years of age, married and not legally barred from adoption
- Divorced or widowed individuals may not adopt without the express consent of a judge.
- Single individuals or common-law partners may not adopt.
- Adopting parents must be at least 15 years older than the child
- Adopting parents must be able to prove they have sufficient revenue to support the child
- As noted above, it is extremely rare for foreigners to be allowed to adopt in Tunisia. Tunisian judges have generally held that prospective adoptive parents must be Muslim and of Tunisian descent. Usually, they will only grant adoptions to Muslims living in Tunisia or an Islamic Arab country that have some family ties to Tunisia.

TIME FRAME:

- One month for review of submitted documentation by the Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance
- "Undetermined" amount of time for review of file by psychologists and other authorities (estimated time: 1-2 months)
- 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents to make sure the home is ready for the child
- . 3 months of visits by the Institut National to the home of the potential parents after the child has been placed there

ADOPTION AGENCIES AND ATTORNEYS: Prospective adoptive parents are advised to fully research any adoption agency or facilitator they plan to use for adoption services. For U.S.-based agencies, it is suggested that prospective adoptive parents contact the Better Business Bureau and/or the licensing office of the appropriate state government agency in the U.S. state where the agency is located or licensed.

Please see Important Notice Regarding Adoption Agents and Facilitators at the Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs web site travel.state.gov

ADOPTION FEES IN COUNTRY: There are no fees for processing an adoption case

ADOPTION PROCEDURES: A completed adoption file containing the documents listed below in the following section may be mailed or hand-delivered to the Institute National de la Protection de l'Enfacne at:

Institut National de la Protection de l'Enfance 2010 Manoubia Tunis, Tunisie

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION IN COUNTRY:

- Petition to adopt a child signed by the adopting parent and their spouse
- Marriage certificate (or death or divorce certificate where applicable)
- 4 prepaid envelopes
- · Birth certificates of both adopting parents
- A copy of Tunisian social security card
- 2 photographs of each adoption parent
- Police certificates of both adopting parents
- Medical certificates of both adopting parents
- Proof of revenue

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN EMBASSY AND CONSULATE IN THE U.S.:

Embassy of Tunisia 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20005 Phone: (202) 862-1850 Fax: (202) 862 1858

U.S. IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS: Prospective adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to consult USCIS publication M-249, THE IMMIGRATION OF ADOPTED AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE CHILDREN, as well as the Department of State publication, International Adoptions. The USCIS publication is available at the USCIS web site. The Department of State publication International Adoptions can be found on the Bureau of Consular Affairs web site, travel.state.gov, under "Inter-country Adoption."

Before completing an adoption abroad, prospective adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to read the requirements for filing Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative. Please see the flyer "How Can Adopted Children Come to the United States" at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site (http://www.travel.state.gov/family/)

U.S. EMBASSY IN TUNISIA: Americans living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, https://travelregistration.state.gov/, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within the country of travel. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The Consular Section is located at:

U.S. Embassy Tunis

1053 Les Berges du Lac

Tunis, Tunisia

http://travel.state.gov/ contains intercountry adoption information flyers like this one and the International Adoptions brochure.

Phone: +216 71-107-000

Fax: +216 71-964-360

Email: ConsularTunis@state.gov

APPLYING FOR A VISA AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TUNISIA: Routine services for U.S. citizens are available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cases involving preparation (such as adoption) should be scheduled in advance by e-mailing consulartunis@state.gov or telephoning (216) 71 107-000.

NOTE: Embassy Tunis generally takes 24 hours to issue a visa.

ACQUIRING U.S. CITIZENSHIP: The language describing the acquisition of U.S. citizenship for adopted children is currently under review. Until the new language is finalized, please click on the following link for further information: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/info/info/info/457.html.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Specific questions about adoption in Tunisia may be addressed to the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. General questions regarding intercountry adoption may be addressed to the Office of Children's Issues, U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/CI, SA-29, 4th Floor, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-4818, toll-free Tel: 1-888-407-4747.

Useful information is also available from several other sources:

Telephone:

Toll Free - For information on intercountry adoption and international parental child abduction, call Overseas Citizens Services at 1-888-407-4747. This number is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Callers who are unable to use toll-free numbers, such as those calling from overseas, may obtain information and assistance during these hours by calling 1-202-501-4444. U.S. Department of State Visa Office - recorded information concerning immigrant visas for adopting children, (202) 663-1225.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services - recorded information for requesting immigrant visa application forms, 1-800-870-FORM (3676).

Internet:

Adoption Information Flyers: The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs web site at: Consular Information Sheets: The State Department has general information about hiring a foreign attorney and authenticating documents that may supplement the country-specific information provided in this flyer. In addition, the State Department publishes Consular Information Sheets (CIS's) for every country in the world, providing information such as location of the U.S. Embassy, health conditions, political situations, and crime reports. If the situation in a country poses a specific threat to the safety and security of American citizens that is not addressed in the CIS for that country, the State Department may issue a Public Announcement alerting U.S. citizens to local security situations. If conditions in a country are sufficiently serious, the State Department may issue a Travel Warning recommending that U.S. citizens avoid traveling to that country. These documents are available on the Internet at: http://travel.state.gov/ or by calling the State Department's Office of Overseas Citizen Services Toll Free at 1-888-407-4747. This number is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Callers who are unable to use toll-free numbers, such as those calling from overseas, may obtain information and assistance during these hours by calling 1-202-501-4444. USCIS web site - http://uscis.gov/.



HAPPY HOURS AND RECREATION CENTER AT THE EMBASSY

You may join USGERA as a Guest Member by contacting the USGERA Manager at (216) 71-107-086. This membership includes access to the Recreation Center at posted times, access to the swimming pool and playground at posted times, and an open invitation to come to our weekly Mid-Week Tweaks and every-other-Friday Happy Hours at the snack bar.

Guest Member:

Single:

Annual: \$600.00/year

Seasonal: \$225.00/season

Family:

Annual: \$900.00/year

Seasonal: \$300.00/season

Happy Hour:

Single:

Annual:TND 100/year

Family:

Annual: TND 150/year



Helpful French Words

Greetings

Good morning or hello Good evening Have a good day Goodbye bonjour bonsoir bonne journee

Days of the Week

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Lundi Mardi Mercredi Jeudi Vendredi Samedi Dimanche

Numbers

One Two Three Four Five Six Seven Eight Nine Ten Hundred Thousand Un
Deux
Trois
Quatre
Cinq
Six
Sept
Huit
Neuf
Dix
Cents
Mille

Miscellaneous

Thank You Please Excuse me You're welcome What time? Rest room Left Right Straight ahead Nice to meet you

How Much?

Check please

Merci S'il vous plait Excusez moi De rien A quelle heure? Toilettes Gauche

Droite
Tout droit
Encahnté
Combien

L'addition s'il vous plait

Shopping in Tunis

The following information though far from exhaustive, provides some basic information to get you started.

<u>Carrefour</u> – Located at the corner of the La Marsa highway and the La Soukra road, Carrefour closely resembles a small, Western-style shopping mall. The mall includes a large combination household items/grocery store, clothing boutiques for men, women and children, shoe stores, a hairdresser, a dry cleaner, a Kodak film processing store, and a food court. The Carrefour grocery store includes canned goods, dry goods, baked and frozen goods, produce, deli meats, beer, wine, etc. (Shoppers should note that most products are Tunisian, Italian or French.) The household section includes appliances, sporting goods, toys, books, clothes, gardening supplies, furniture, bedding, hardware, etc.

Géant - Located Bizerte Highway 3.5K from Tunis. Giant superstore and mall with food court is quite similar to Carrefour.

<u>Monoprix</u> - The Monoprix is a privately owned chain of stores in a variety of locations. Its inventory includes similar items (although on a much smaller scale) to those found in an American grocery store.

<u>Lac Palace</u> - On the La Marsa highway, this retail/commercial/residential center offers numerous upscale shops and boutiques (Jacadi, Estee Lauder, and Villeroy & Boch, among others) and small eateries.

<u>Zephyr</u> – This shopping plaza, is located in La Marsa Ville, includes a Monoprix and a Monoprix home, various clothing and shoe boutiques, Tunisiana phone store and a Tea Salon overlooking the Mediterranean.

<u>Central market</u> - Located near the Medina, off Avenue Habib Bourguiba, offers any and every item available in Tunis. There are numerous butchers, fish markets, poultry shops, produce vendors and specialty shops. You can find everything from dry goods, canned goods and spices to handicrafts and freshly made pasta.

<u>La Marsa Market</u> – Open daily until noon. A smaller version of the central market can be found in the center of la Marsa, near the Corniche. Several fishermen and butchers are available. Also included are a half a dozen produce vendors, a patisserie, a cheese store, poultry and egg shops, a dry goods store, a spice shop, and a flower vendor. Along the outer walkway you can find a dry cleaner, toy store, magazine stand and jeweler.

<u>Promogro</u> - Promogro is located on the La Marsa highway. The store has two sections. One sells bulksupplies, such as cases of milk, water, and sodas, rice and pasta by the sack, and canned goods in gallon sizes. They also sell kitchenware, bath items, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and paper products in this section. The other section has fresh produce, meats, and dairy products. here is a small toy store on the upper level.

In addition to the shops and stores listed on the previous page, Tunis and the surrounding areas are inundated with a myriad of small bakeries, food shops and vegetable stands. The best way to shop these local markets is to explore your neighborhood and find the ones you like the best. Here are some of the more popular neighborhood shops.

<u>Chamalo</u> - Located off the la Marsa highway next to the La Marsa train station. Chamalo offers a large selection of Belgian-style chocolates and other candies. 6 Rue Voltaire 2070 La Marsa. 71 743 654

<u>ChoPain</u> – Located in La Marsa , ChoPain offers delicious croissants, breads and pastries. 14 C Ave. de l'Independance - 71-981-880

<u>Le Délice</u> – Located on the La Marsa highway, across from the British Ambassador's Residence, Le Délice offers pastries, savories and breads. 71.728-737

<u>Le Gourmet</u> - A patisserie located in La Marsa across from the La Marsa high school. Le Gourmet offers croissants, pastries, and cakes.

<u>Patisserie Ben Yedder</u> - Several Ben Yedder shops can be found in Tunis. They offer a variety of croissants, pastries, and cakes as well as a coffee shop.

<u>Le Petit Coin de France</u> – Located on La Marsa highway (near Promogro) this delicatessen offers a variety of French meats, cheese and homemade pasta. They also offer a "plate of the day" for takeout. Mon – Fri 8-2 / 4-8, Sat 8:30 – 8pm, Sun 8:30 – 1pm. CLOSED on Wednesday

<u>Les Pyramides</u> – Rue El Saoud, Manar II. Offers croissants and a variety of pastries, cakes, candy and ice cream.71.873.999

Miscellaneous Services in Tunis

Dry Cleaners

CarrefourDavin, 21 rue Gamel Abdelnasser 71 241.489
L'Unic72 Avenue de la Liberte71 280.770
Lave Matic15 Avenue Ali Behahouane, La Marsa 71 741 470
King PressingRue Lac Victoria, Berges du Lac 71-862-842

Film Developing

Kodak store, Carrefour, 1 hour service

Kodak Labocolor112 rue de Palestine, same day service

Studio SalimAvenue Abderrahman Mami La Marsa

Konica Photo ExpressLac Palace, same day service

71 782.422

71-741-257 / 71-741-385

71 788.880

Framing

L'Art de l'Encadrement, Route de la Soukra Km 14, Sidi Fradj 98-318-033

Hair Salons

Donna's116 Ave. De l'Union du Maghreb. La Soukra	71-765-258 / 71-233-049
Pretty Lady125 Rue de l'Ere Nouvelle, Cite Ennaser	71-828-608
Hair GlamourRue lac Oubeira, Berge du Lac	71-862-869 / 21-189-957
Jacque Dessange1053 Berges du Lac	71-860-600 / 71-860-910
Coiffure et BeautéRue du Sapin, La Marsa	71-742-190 / 71-745-397
Chantal(near Café Journal)	71-982-237
KiceLa Marsa (near 3 gas stations)	98-275-492
Beauty Institutenext to Monoprix, Carthage	71-721-343
Nourredine El KefiRue Marseille, Tunis	71-350-663

Veterinary Services

Clinique Vét du Lac,Rue du Lac Malerne,1053 Les Berges du Lac
Clinique Vét du Lac,Rue du Lac Malerne,1053 Les Berges du Lac
Clinique Vet. La Marsa22 Bis de la Victoire, La Marsa

71-740-664 / 98-219-172
Dr. Ben Milouika Zakaria2046 Sidi Daoud, Carthage
71 779.125 / 71-982-222
Dr. Meriem Mansour Ben Arfa (house calls)

21-121-974
Dr. Akram Ben Salah

98-332-325

Travel Agents

Atlantis Voyages – Walid Boulifa, Av. Du Japon, Mont Plaisir 1002, Tunis 98-652-511



Civil Documents in Tunisia

Birth certificates (extrait de naissance), marriage certificates (acte de mariage), divorce certificates (acte de divorce) or death certificates (acte de deces) may be obtained from the Ministry of the Interior, Office of Foreigners:

Ministere de l'Interieure et du Developpement Locale Bureau des Etrangeres Avenue Habib Bourguiba Tunis 1000

Phone: (216) 71-330-000 E-mail: mint@ministeres.tn

If you know the municipality in which the event took place in Tunisia you may directly contact that City Hall (mairie) and request the original document.

Police records (extrait de casier judiciare or Bulletin Numero 3) can be obtained by bringing a letter stating that you like your police record to your nearest police station (or National Guard station if you are or were located in a rural area). You will need to present an ID and a copy of this ID. For those under the age of 18, a birth certificate will also need to be provided. There is a fee of two Tunisian Dinar which must be paid at the local tax collector's office (recette de finance) where you will receive a stamp that you should take with you to the police station. They will then give you an application form which you can fill out and return immediately. It can take up to fifteen days to receive your record.



Cars

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to Tunisian legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to Tunisian government officials.

An unlimited third party liability insurance policy is compulsory for all automobiles driven in Tunisia. As proof of insurance you will be given a receipt that you should keep in your car.

In general cars imported for less than three months can keep their foreign plates; those brough int for more than three months need Tunisian plates. Americans who plan to reisde in Tunisia should consult the Customs Office at the port of entry about paying import taxes on their vehicle. The contact information for the main Customs Office is:

Direction Generale des Douanes Rue de Palestine Tunis 1001

Phone: (216) 71-799-700 E-mail: brc@douane.gov.tn Website: http://www.douane.gov.tn/

In order to obtain a Tunisian license plate and have your imported car pass inspection you will need approval from the "Service des Mines" of the Prefecture. Their telephone number is (216) 71-934-925

The sale of a car imported duty-free must be processed at the Tunisian Customs Office. Both the buyer and the seller must execute a title transfer request (demande de transfert.) The seller must also complete a bill of sale (certificat de vente). Foreigners must present their passports, as well as all ownership documents. Customs duties and taxes must be paid by the seller to the TunisianCustoms Office on any car sold to a resident of Tunisia. The seller must give the customs certificate (certificat de dédouanement) to the buyer as proof that customs duties have been paid on the vehicle. Any American planning to sell a duty-free vehicle should inform the local Customs Office of their intentions and confirm that the circumstances of the sale pose no customs problems.

